2 Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) - Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in South Lebanon on Friday when guerrillas blasted their post with mortar bombs, security sources said. The soldiers were wounded — one moderately and one lightly — when guerrilla mortar fire hit their position at Sojoud hill on the edge of the "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon, the sources added. Hizboliah (Party of God) claimed responsibility for the attack. The sources said guerrillas also fired mortars and anti-tank rockets at another hilltop Israeli post at Amoun, 12 kilometres to the south, but there were no casualties. Israeli and allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia gunners fired about 30 tank and beavy artillery shells into Iolim Al Toufah mountain ridge, a bastion of Hizboilah guerrillas just north of the zone. No one was hurt. Later a roadside bomb exploded near a civilian car passing between Bisri and Anan villages, in an area north of the zone but under Israeli control, the sources said. None of the passengers was hurt but the car suffered some damage.

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Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and His Royal Highness

Crown Prince Hassan at the

White House in September.

Israel did not want to exclude

any Arabs from the circle of

peace and dropped hints about a new breakthrough amid in-

dications stalled Israel-PLO

the breakthrough was with

Visiting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa was opti-

mistic about getting talks with

both Syria and the PLO back

on both tracks and to achieve

progress as much as we can,"

Mr. Musa said after meeting

with Prime Minister Yitzhak

Rabin and Israeli generals at

the defence ministry in Tel

Asked whether the Israel-

PLO talks would resume next

week, Mr. Musa said: "I be-

lieve so. There is nothing

against that." He added there

were also "definite hopes on

the other tracks," but declined

(Continued on page 5)

"We have to move quickly

Israeli media suggested that

talks would resume.

on track.

Aviv.

Mr. Peres said Thursday

# Fate of mostly 'Palestinian' First and Second districts will be sealed by PLO-Islamist clash

Less privileged concerned about hardship, but not to extent of evicting incumbents

By Lamis K. Andoni in Hashemi Shamali

ONCE THE barometer for popular sentiments in the country, northeast and south of Amman, home to the less privileged and many Palestinian refugees, are now largely indifferent to the elections campaign — an alarming sign of diminishing expectations and estrangement of political parties from their assumed power base.

As candidates continue to clash over the Israeli-Palestinian accord, which is a major theme of the elections campaign in the First and Second districts that include two densely populated refugee camps, people see more concerned with daily hardships of life.

In these two districts, poor and working classes feel the pinch of living on the periphery of the more affluent Third District of the

Unemployment and poor public services, including health and sanitary conditions in some of the more neglected areas, are the major complaints expressed by residents who feel that former deputies did not do much to improve the living conditions of these parts.

But such complaints will not fundamentally harm the chances of the districts' former deputies particularly those of the Islamic Action

most efficient and organised, as usual, in mobilising its supporters for this campaign.

In refugee camps, in particular, residents are pressing candidates on demands for lifting government constraints on adding building structures to the houses that were originally constructed as tents and barracks in the fif-

However, the outcome of the elections could be an important indicator of public opinion over the peace process, as contenders focus on their support or opposition to the Oslo accords.

power base for the left, and pro-PLO groups, the 1989

By Mariam M. Shahin'

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

WAHDAT -- Islamic Action

Front (IAF) candidate Ham-

zeh Mansour drew a surpri-

singly small crowd in this

Palestinian refugee camp Fri-

day during an afternoon rally

that was intended to boost his

popularity before Monday's

Once an unquestioned

stronghold of the IAF, resi-

dents in this part of Amman's

Second District are apparent-

ly more concerned with their

political and economic reali-

ties than with the "Islam is

elections.



Early predictions suggest the Islamists will lose their monopoly over the six seats, divided equally between the two districts, but the three official candidates fielded by the strong IAF (the political party of the Muslim Brother-

hood) will win. In the First District, IAF candidate Sheikh Abdul Aziz Jabr is expected to maintain his lead, while in the Second District outspoken and con-troversial Sheikh Abdul Munim Abu Zant and Mr. Hamzeh Mansour (both from

the IAF) will comfortably se-

cure First and Second place

The IAF has apparently made a pragmatic move by not nominating more than one candidate in the First District, where independent Islamist and former deputy Sheikh Ali Fakir enjoys support among traditional non-organised Muslims. Sheikh Fakir remains a

strong contender for the number two slot although other independent Islamists, like Dr. Ahmad Awaysheh, and leftist and pro-PLO candidates might prove to be serious rivals.

In 1989 the Brotherhood was able to weaken other rivals by supporting an alliance of members and independent Islamists in the two districts. The introduction of the one-person, onevote system, however, spoiled IAF tactics to strike once again such successful alliances. But the electoral change, which was introduced in August, has deeply fragmented the two areas into neighbourhoods, clans, families, and among refugees; it has even created alliances based on source of origin in Palestine, giving way to the rise of candidates who represent only very nar-

row interest groups.,

The fragmentation of the
First and Second districts will hurt both IAF and the leftists, who came first and second respectively in the 1989 elections.

The IAF's opposition to the Oslo accords, which pits it against the PLO, might backfine this time despite the decline of the organisation's popularity in the camps and other predominantly Palestinian areas.

Sheikh Abu Zant's scathing criticism of the PLO,

# PLO puts off decision on renewing Taba talks

pinnings," he said.

Jordanian officials rule out

treaty with Israel unless same

U.S. embassy for talks chaired by Mr. Ross, diplomats said.

an informal meeting to set an agenda for detailed economic

discussions among experts to

begin in the near future. He declined to discuss the

agenda but called the meeting

encouraging for the entire

Mr. Savir held separate talks with Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO), officials to

discuss channelling immediate

aid to launch Palestinian self-

rule in the Gaza Strip and

see here in Paris, where we are

meeting simultaneously with the PLO and with the Jorda-

nians, and with major actors in

the international community, a

growing effort to couple a poli-

tical solution with the econo-

mic development of our re-

work towards a triangle of eco-

nomic development, to foster

and strenghthen a political

solution with economic under-

The talks with Jordan were

agreed at a meeting between

Our hope is ultimately to

gion," Mr. Savir said.

"It is encouraging that we

Jericho from December.

Middle East.

Mr. Savir told Reuters it was

is done with Syria, Lebanon

AMMAN — Jordanian offi-

cials warned Friday that no major move in the Middle East

peace process could be

announced before Monday's

elections, amid reports of a

breakthrough towards a treaty

The officials, declining to be

named, told the AFP the King-

dom was "ready to make prog-ress" with Israel but they ruled

out a peace treaty unless the

Jewish state also made prog-

ress in negotiations with Syria

The United States has been

pressing Jordan to reach peace

with Israel and offered to help

pay off its \$6 billion foreign

The officials said U.S. Mid-

dle East envoy Dennis Ross

made the offer during a tour of

In Paris, a senior Israeli offi-

cial said Friday he met a Jorda-

nian minister for the first U.S.-

brokered economic talks be-

Foreign Ministry Director-

General Uri Savir met Minister

of State in Prime Ministry

Affairs Jawad Al Anani at the

debt in return, they said.

the region last month.

tween the two sides.

with Israel.

BERIALS

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath announced the delay after Mr. Arafat paid a surprise visit to Cairo and met with Mr. Mubarak's top political adviser, Osmaa Al Baz. Mr. Arafat left for Yemen after the Baz meeting but was

to return in two days. Egypt has made intense efforts to renew the Israeli-PLO talks since Dr. Shaath walked out of a session last Tuesday on grounds Israel reneged on a promise to withdraw its troops from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town

Egypt's foreign minister, Amr Musa, met twice with Dr. Shaath during the week. Mr. Musa went Thursday to Israel for discussions with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon'

of Jericho.

Peres.
When asked if Mr. Musa

obtained Israeli assurances to tries, before establishing relabring the Palestinians back to tions with Israel, wait for the ntil atter ti

Mubarak meeting." Dr. Shaath said the two were scheduled to meet on Mr. Arafat's return from Yemen.

Before arriving in Cairo, Mr. Arafat said he might meet Mr. Rabin soon to give a push to the peace process. WAFA, the PLO news agency, said he made his comments in Dakkar, Senegal, and gave no further

In Dakkar, Mr. Arafat urged African nations on Thursday to postpone recognising Israel until the creation of a Palestinian state.

Mr. Arafat, who visited the former French colony to meet with President Abdon Diouf, also said an agreement must be reached on Jerusalem.

Several African nations that had supported the PLO's cause already have made provisional moves towards extending diplomatic recognition to Israel. Most recently, Ghana's parliament last week told the government to begin taking steps towards recognition. "We wish that African coun-

the talks, Dr. Shaath said: creation of a Palestinian state "We will not announce any- and a solution for Jerusalem," Mr. Arafat told a news con

Official sources said Dr. Baz briefing Mr. Arafat on the outcome of Egypt's talks with Israel on relaunching the nego-

Mr. Musa said prospects for the resumption of the talks were bright. He said his talks in Israel were very successful and that the negotiations would resume in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba next

weck. The Taba talks are meant to negotiate details of an Israeli pullout from Gaza and Jericho under Israel's accord with the PLO signed Sept. 13 in

Washington.
The accord calls for the Israelis to start withdrawing Dec. 13, to be replaced by Palestinian security forces, but leaves Israel responsibility for the Jewish settlers remaining

ening.
In suspending the talks, Dr. Sheath said that a withdrawal plan presented by Israel

(Continued on page 4)

ties and early sixties.

Historically considered a

elections were a surprise in that it was the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamists who had taken over in the First and Second districts.

Only grudging clapping fol-lowed Mr. Mansour's slogan-

packed speech, in which he

promised to fight for a mor-

ally just society when in the

Jordanian parliament and the

creation of Islamic cohesion

resistance front against the enemies of Islam," Mr. Man-

sour shouted linto flie mic-

rophone addressing some 700

people, about 20 per cent of whom were children dressed

up in IAF paper head-caps.

IAF candidates dominated

the square where Mr. Man-

Banners and posters of

from Algiers to Islamabad."

"We are the front, the last

IAF rally draws small crowd

Mr. Mansour is running for the first time in this working-

A huge poster of the Al and a sufi singer

this campaign.

class district where Palestinians from 1948 refugees make up-most of the population. In 1989, Mr. Mansour ran in the Fourth District (Sahab, Quweismeh, Juweidah), but the change in the electoral law has forced him to relotate his bid to this area, especially that the LAF wanted to field a candidate with a tribal base in his place.

Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem hung over Mr. Mansour's

# Bedouins in north, centre and south will fine put off a decision on peace talks with Israel until early next week, after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat meets Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Chief PLO negotiator Nabil

Tribal strengths, alliances, and services to underdeveloped sector figure high communicating on personal

levels with their constituencies.

By Ayman Al Safadi Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Though separated by vast deserts and many towns and cities across the country, the three electoral bedouin districts are joined together by common concerns and tribal values.

In these underdeveloped areas of the Kingdom, the harshness of life in the desert forces its own issues on the electoral race for the two parliamentary seats allocated for each of the three bedouin concentrations in the north, the centre and the south.

There is little talk of national politics there. The focus is on the need for building roads, schools and hospitals, finding

jobs and securing university

slogans of candidates in Amcompletely absent in others.

district) there are no banners." said a resident of the town. The 13 candidates contesting the district's two seats campaign through the old traditions of the tribes; visiting the madhafats (guest houses) and

education for the young.
"We have our own problems here. Many of the people are

jobless because they did not have enough education." said Suleiman Hajaya, a tribal leader from the south.

The banners that boost the

man and other urban centres of the country are scarce in the majority of these districts. "In Husseiniyeh (a small town in the southern bedouin

The 13 candidates come from the three major tribes for which the election law basically reserved the two seats, with each tribe and even clan failing to unanimously support one candidate. Ten candidates from the

> Hweittat tribe, including incumbents Sheikh Faisal Ben Jazi (who won 5,377 votes in 1989) and Nayef Abu Tayeh (who scored 4,303 votes) are running for election.

The Hajaya tribe is fielding two candidates and one aspirant from the Bani Atiyeh tribe is also vying for the support of the district's 24.217 registered

Even though Sheikh Jazi is

his clan, Kassab Al Jazi, the sheikh is expected to fare well in the race because he is the traditional head of the clan which is still committed to the tribal heirarchy. The sheikh is also expected to win votes from outside the clan.

challenged by one member of

"The young is trying to chal-lenge the old, but tribal values are still strong and the majority will support their traditional leadership," said one source who asked not to be named. The electoral race is more difficult for former Deputy Abu Tayeh whose perform

ance at the 11th Parliament was at times controversial, because three members of his can are also seeking election for this district, which extends

over parts of the governorates of Ma'an, Karak and Tafileh. By virtue of the personal relations that prevail in the district, all candidates are expected to win votes from outside their clans. That, said an observer, makes it difficult to expect the outcome of the race. The more likely candidates, however, are Sheikh Jazi, Dr. Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Oudeh Njadat (also a Hweittat), Ahmad Al Hajaya, Salem Al Zawaideh (Hweittat), and Bader Al Neimat (Hweittat).

Wasat district

Among the bedouins of Al (Continued on page 3)

# Fourth District challenges conservative politics

By Mariam M. Shahin in Abu 'Alanda

THE ELECTORAL race in this industrial district of Amman (85,061 registered voters) is promising to be a lively campaign after the entry of what promises to be a third force to compete with the Islamic Action Front (IAF) and tribal representa-

The Fourth District is a stronghold of conservative tribal clans, on the one hand, and the Muslim Brotherhood on the other. It includes industrial boroughs such as Qweismeh, Jweideh, Abu 'Alanda and Sahab. With 20 candidates vying for two Muslim seats, elections here will be a test for both the clans and IAF, especially after left-wing political parties and a maverick Jordanian politician have combined to back one of the candidates.

This candidate, Abdul Rahman Al Qatarneh, is an independent whose political election programme came of

late to the attention of three left-wing parties, the Jordan People's Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party and the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party. Subsequently Leith Shbeilat, the former Third District deputy who made headlines when he was accused and convicted of political subversion last year, also announced that he would

back Mr. Qatarneh. The candidacy of Mr. Oatameh itself and the official backing being given to him by highly politicised groups and individuals have given the campaign here some colour and created a political dialogue in this part of Amman that would otherwise have been limited to local economic questions and LAF promises of a morally correct attitude on people's social agenda, national unity

and Palestine. Mr. Qatarneh is concentrating on pan-Arab politics, calling for the lifting of economic boycott against Iraq. Many of the industrial goods produced in this district's factories headed wholesale for Iraq before it invaded Kuwait in 1990 Amman-based truck driv-

ers, most of whom have made this district their home, are also interested in reopening the Jordanian-Iraqi trade route. Many lost their livelihood as a result of the U.N.imposed embargo on Iraq. The transport sector generally has suffered tremendously as a result of the sanctions.

Thus, the political and economic interests of many in this district are distinct from, say, the political closeness to the Saudi royal family that many of the tribal leaders here have traditionally boasted about.

In fact after losing the by-election to Anwar Hadid in 1992, Minwer Abu Zaid another candidate from Sahab complained to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd that there had been rigging of the vote count. Mr. Abu Zaid's move was not taken seriously

at the time, but the incident highlighted the tenuous nature of figures running and campaigns waged for elec-tions in this district.

Up against such kind of tribalism which would favour some of the candidates over others, Mr. Qatarneh is by no means a sure winner. But he is creating an unprecedented challenge to a community of businessmen, landowners and industrial workers who have been dependent on others for decades.

Banners promoting the almost exclusively tribal candidates here, as elsewhere in the Kingdom, are many; but most locals say there is no telling of what will happen on election day. The IAF has the most cohesive advertisement campaign and its banners are so eye-catching and strategically located that they cannot

be missed by passers-by.
While incumbent Deputy Anwar Hadid is definitely a frontrunner with only one member of his prominent cian running against him,

most observers say that, with the one-person, one-vote formula in force, no seat is completely safe for any

candidate.
Mr. Hadid beat fellow tribal candidate Abu Zaid and IAF candidate Hani Tahrawi in the bye-election held here in Agusut 1992. Mr. Hadid thus replaced his cousin, Nayef Al Hadid, who had passed away while a member of the Lower House. The Hadid clan is promin-

ent but its actual voting strength, say many people here, is often exaggerated. Nevertheless, Nayef Hadid was able to capture 6,458 votes out of the 19,000 votes cast in 1989. Four other members of his clan were running in that race. Most of the Hadid clan is expected to back Anwar Al Hadid. While younger candidate. Issa Hadid, is expected to make his entry into the political scene with few thinking that

he has a chance of winning (Continued on page 4)

# **ALI HUSSEIN ABU RAGHEB**

Third District



**TOGETHER TOWARDS:** 

Democracy, productivity, freedom of speech, social justice and equal opportunity. A Better Future For Our Children

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ashrawi to head PLO office in Washington AMMAN (R) - Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for Palesti-

AMMAN (R)— Itanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for Falestinian Middle East peace negotiators, has accepted a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) offer to head the organisation's new mission in Washington, Palestinian officials said Friday. Dr. Ashrawi, who was asked by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to head the mission, was in Washington to prepare for its reopening. The office, closed down after Washington severed its dialogue with the PLO in 1990, will have adjustment of tables. The United States lifted the ban on

have no diplomatic status. The United States lifted the ban on

contacts with the organisation after Israel and the PLO signed

a Palestinian-self rule deal in Washington on Sept. 13. Dr.

Ashrawi, a professor of English literature at Bir Zeit Universi-

ty in the occupied West Bank, was a key conduit for indirect contacts between Washington and the PLO before the

KHARTOUM (R) - A U.N. relief train carrying food to

southern Sudan's second largest town has been stopped and looted by rebels and robbed by crowds of civilians in government-held stations, according to the United Nations. The U.N. said on Thursday it had ordered the train to stay put

in the southern town of Ariath and had complained to the

rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the

government about the incidents, the worst of their kind since February. It has demanded guarantees of safe conduct before

the train resumes its journey, a U.N. statement issued in Khartoum added. The World Food Programme (WFP) chartered train was carrying some 1,500 tonnes of food from northern Sudan to WAU when large groups of armed men stopped it and forced U.N. and Sudanese railways staff to

stopped it and forced U.N. and Sudanese ranways start to hand over food at gunpoint, it said. The gunmen, some apparently wearing SPLA military uniforms, stopped the train on Tuesday between the towns of Mabior and Ariath in Bahr Al Ghazal state — one of three states in southern Sudan which is very short of food.

Pope repeats willingness to visit Lebanon

VATICAN CITY (AP) - Pope John Paul II met with

ansill:

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The Land of Long

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DATE :

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U.N. train looted in south Sudan

self-rule pact was sealed.

# raties prepare Libya sanction resolution with grace period

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The Western allies expected to circulate a revised resolution Friday tightening sanctions against Libya for not surrendering two men accused of bombing a Pan Am airliner over Scotland in 1988.

Diplomats said minor differences remained but final approval was expected from Moscow, which previously had threatened to veto the measures for financial reasons.'
As a compromise, the draft

will probably include a grace period to Nov. 22 before the sanctions go into effect but after the U.N. Security Council adopts the resolution.

The United States, Britain and France, after a month's delay, want a vote early next week and hoped to distribute a new text to all members Friday. But so far they do not anticipate more than 10 votes in the 15-member council.

Only 10 states, one more than required, voted for an April 1991 resolution that imposed an arms, air and dipiomatic embargo on Libya in an effort to pressure Tripoli into giving up the suspects for trial to Britain or the United

The two are accused of bombing Pan Am Flight 103

December 1986 in which 270 people died.

Libya also must cooperate with an inquiry into the bombing of a French plane over Niger in 1989 which killed 171

people.

Moscow fears the resolution. which freezes some of Tripoli's foreign assets, will prevent Libya from repaying a \$4 bil-lion debt it owes Russia.

Russia has argued that Europeans took care not to ban Tripoli's high-grade crude to Germany and Italy and natural gas to Spain but did not consider Moscow's debt problem.

The resolution freezes Libya's current financial assets and bans oil transport and refinery equipment. But it ex-cludes oil production equipment or future revenues from oil sales earned after the draft is adopted.

This means Tripoli will be able to use its estimated \$10 billion annual earnings from exports of 1.36 million barrels of crude daily.

Banking sources also believe that Libya has been moving its foreign assets, including about \$6 billion in cash and holdings in hundreds of firms, away from key Western centres in anticipation of the resolution. Nevertheless, U.S. officials

maintain the measures on

assets and equipment hurt several of Libya's joint ven-

"If they didn't care about it,

they wouldn't want to stop it," said a U.S. envoy.

New provisions will probably say thatr Libya is not excused from paying debts to Russia or anyone else after its assets are unfrozen. But there is no way to enforce such de-

To get Moscow's approval, President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister John Major and French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur all sent messages to Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Tripoli has said the accused. Abdul Baset Ali Al Megrami and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, could stand trial in Scotland if they agreed, but a team of international lawyers advised against it, fearing they could

not get a fair trial. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Thursday after meeting with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt that he would not bow to Western pressure and force the two suspects to surrender for trial in the West. Col. Qadhafi also said he wanted to end the Lockerbie affair as soon as possible "to prove our inno-

TRAFFIC TRAINING: Samir Tawashah gives Palestinian traffic policemen their first traffic regulation course at the Dunia driving school in Ramallah Friday. This unit will be on

the streets of Ramallah from Nov. 15, the fifth anniversary of the "State of Palestine" declara-tion of independance (AFP photo)

### Moroccan opposition refuses minority cabinet

RABAT (R) — Moroccan opposition parties said Friday they refused King Hassan's invitation to form a minority government because elections were falsified and they would

not have a free hand to govern.

The king received the opposition parties twice in the last two weeks. He strongly urged the opposition parties to join the next government to effect "change and renewal" after more than 30 years of right-wing rule.

In a memorandum sent to the king and published by party papers, the old-guard Nationalist Istiqlal Party, the Socialist Union of People's Forces (USFP) and the leftist Organisation of Democratic and Popular Action (OADP) said electoral distortions must

first be rectified. The three groups and the Communist Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS) won 122 of the 333 seats in the chamber of representatives elected in two stages in June and Septem-

ber for a six-year mandate. The rest of the seats went to five centre-right parties who had an absolute majority in the

The memorandum charged that the administration had not abided by the king's instructions for "sincere and transparent elections" and there had been "a massive resort to

money" to buy votes. They demanded the constitution be revised to enable all members of parliament to be elected by direct universal suffrage. At present one third of the chamber is elected indirectly by local councils, professional groups and trade un-

USFP leader Mohammad Al Yazghri told Reuters a minority opposition government would not have a free hand when portfolios are held by nominees who control key

ministries." The king told the opposition he would reserve the right to choose the prime minister and the key ministers of justice, interior and foreign affairs.

Diplomats said the next government, subject of intense speculation and debate in the last month, will probably be "the mixture as before."

"We will probably see some new faces, younger people perhaps, but they will have the same political colour as in the past," a senior Western diplomat said.

## French presence to be scaled down in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) - France is scaling down its presence in Algeria in the coming weeks to provide a "minimum service" in the wake of the kidnapping of three French consular offi-cials, reliable sources said

Many of the 3,000 French nationals who left Algeria for the All Saints Day holiday last weekend had not returned on Friday, even though the French lycee reopens on

The Muslim fundamenntalist kidnappers, releasing their final hotage Michele Thevenot on Oct. 31, gave her a message giving foreigners a month to leave the country, warning that after this deadline "anyone will be responseible for his own sudden death.

Foreign Minister Alain Jup-pe said Thursday he was taking "very seriously" threats made against French in Algeria by the kidnappers.

Security, both visible and more discreet, has been stepped up around official French buildings in Algiers, Oran and Annaba. The French embassy has renewed its advice to be vigilant to the 25,000 French nationals living in Algeria, in-cluding 8,000 recent expatri-

Around 1,000 civil servants, including 400 teachers, have been told to send thier families back to France. Some officials, not considered indispensable, have also been invited to re-

turn home. France has offices providing official services in around 30 buildings across the country.

including three consulates in Algiers, Oran and Annaba, and several cultural centres.

A French lycee in Algiers has around 600 non-Algerian pupils, 200 of them French. There are also a number of French primary schools.

The most important services, including the chancel-lery, are sited in a 14-hectare park at Hydra, a residential suburb of Algiers.

French companies employing some 2,000 French nationals have also decided to send their families home initially and then consider reducing expatriate staffing levels. Work is being suspended on building sites outside main urban centres, where adequate security cannot be provided.

The kidnappings were claimed by a faction called the Islamic Armed Group (GIA).

The group is thought to be the most radical of the fighting groups trying to topple the military-backed government, installed in January 1992 after an army coup d'etat. The army cancelled parliamentary elections tht Muslim fundamentalists were poised ot win.

The violence has killed more than 2,000 people in less than two years. For the past six months, attacks blamed on Islamic extremists have targeted intellectuals, journalists, and, most recently, fore-

The GIA had announced in a statement delivered to the Associated Press the freeing of the French hostages, but set the date for Monday, instead of the weekend.

Lebanon's president Friday, and repeated his willingness to visit the country "if circumstances permit," the Vatican said. President Elias Hrawi spoke to the pontiff about the situation in Lebanon and the prospects for peace in the Middle East, the Vatican said. Mr. Hrawi repeated his invitation to visit the country, which is recovering from 15 years of civil war. Mr. Hrawi told reporters the Pope would "soon" fix a date, but the Vatican did not mention a time frame.

### Freighter sinks off Morocco, 8 missing

RABAT (R) — Eight crew members were missing on Friday after a Honduras-registered freighter sank off Morocco in high winds and heavy seas, the official Moroccan news agency MAP reported. Six crew members were rescued when the Amal, chartered by the state phosphate mining and marketing monopoly office Cherifien des Phosphates (OCP), sank Wednesday as it was about to enter the southern port of Safi to load phosphate, it said. A search for the eight missing crew members continued, it added, quoting the merchant marine

### Rights groups urge probe of Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Four organisations asked the United Nations Thursday to send human rights observers to Iraq and form a commission to investigate "crimes" against Kurds and Shiites by the regime of President Saddam Hussein. The groups also urged the United Nations to condemn Iran for bombarding Kurdish areas and advocated easing the embargo on the Kurdish regions of Iraq. The four organisations were the International Human Rights Law group, Middle East Watch, the International Federation of Human Rights and the Fondation France-Libertes, headed by French President Francois Mitterrand's wife Danielle. "As we speak, a new phase is being prepared in the deliberate genocide orchestrated" against the Kurds, said Mrs. Mitterrand, who met with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali. She said statesmen and informed citizens will have to answer to history for the failure to do anything to help people in danger.

### Israelis held for diamond dealer's stabbing

LIMASSOL. Cyprus (AP) - Two Israelis, a man and a woman, were remanded in custody Thursday in connection with the stabbing of a Cypriot diamond dealer. The court ordered Mordecai Ben Mayer, 40, a factory worker, held for six days, and Paula Fargon, 33, a secretary, for five days. pending the completion of police investigations. The two were arrested at Larnaca airport Wednesday afternoon as they were about to leave for Athens a few hours after Limassol diamond merchant Philokypros Matheou was stabbed. Police prosecutor Yannakis Pericleous told the court Matheou was confronted by a hooded man yielding a large knife as he left his fifth-floor apartment. Mr. Pericleous said the hooded man told Mr. Matheou: "I am going to cut off your head." Mr. Matheou ran down the stairs but was caught on the next floor by the assailant, who stabbed him in the back and side. The prosecutor said police found a knife in the couple's suitcase 'similar to the one used against Matheon."

### King Juan Carios to visit Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) - The king and queen of Spain will become the first reigning monarchs to pay a state visit to Israel when they arrive Monday. King Juan Carlos will hold talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Tuesday and give a speech to parliament, a foreign ministry official said Friday. President Ezer Weizman hosts the royal couple who will walk the Old City of Jerusalem and travel to traditional Christian sites by the Sea of Galilee

## Afghan Airbase shelled

BAGRAM AIRBASE, Afghanistan (AFP) — Afghanistan's main military airbase came under rocket attack Friday by forces loyal to Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in the fifth day of factional

At least four long-range 107mm rockets were fired by Hezb-e-Islami gunmen into the Bagram base; located about 50 kilometres north of Kabul.

Three exploded on or near the runway, sending up plumes of smoke, and the fourth hit just metres from the headquarters of the base commander.

Bodyguards to commander Bismillah Khan said the rockets were fired from mountains in the distant west. But they appeared to have come from just south of Bagram, where Hezb-e-Islami, has pockets of control.

Hezb-e-Islami units were thought to be putting pressure on the air base, from which jet strikes have been launched daily against Mr. Hekmatyar's

Hezb-e-Islami captured Wednesday the district centre of Tagob, which lies just a few hours drive southeast of Bagram, in fierce fighting with lamiat-e-Islami faction troops loyal to former Defence Minis-

ter Ahmad Shah Masood. Bismillah Khan, Mr. Masood's man in Bagram, claimed Jamiat had recaptured Tagob Thursday and had consolidated its hold Friday by advancing a further six to seven kilometres south into

Hezb-e-Islami territory. Western journalists based in Kabui, some of whom were denied permission Friday to accompany helicopter flights to Tagob, have yet to independently confirm Jamiat's claim of recapturing this contested

district centre. At least three dead Jamiat soldiers and two wounded ones were seen arriving at Bagram by helicopter Friday, indicating the fight for Tagob is far

from over.

# Mideast diplomats say U.S. needed for stability

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Egypt's ambassador to the U.S. and an Israeli embassy and an Israeli embassy official in Washington agree that American leadership is critical to the achievement of peace and stability in the Mid-

"In a world that has only one superpower and has seen new dangers, the only country that can play a role in helping solve the problems is certainly the United States," Ahmad Maher Al Sayed, Egyptian ambassa-dor to the United States, told a Nov. 2 forum on the peace process sponsored by George Washington University and the

U.S. Global Strategy Council. "The whole world is looking to the United States for leadership," Mr. Sayed said.

Nimrod Barkan, minister of the Israeli embassy in Washington; joined Mr. Sayed in a discussion of "The Next Phase of the Middle East Peace Process," and said the region in the post-cold war period "is going through a major historic demographic

Mr. Barkan said Arab countries are in urgent need of "a Western Marshall plan" to eliminate social and economic miseries that "may endanger the stability of the Middle East and the stability of the whole world."

"The first step to avert this has been taken in the donors conference that convened in Washington," Mr. Barkan said. "I hope to see the continuation of that from a total Middle East perspective." ·

Ambassador Sayed said that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak heard a diversity of American opinion as he met with members of the administration and Congress during his recent, U.S. visit. He added, however, "we found an understanding from all those with whom he met... for the need to maintain support of this very

important strategic area." Mr. Sayed said that Mr. Muharak acknowledged in private talks his understanding that U.S. foreign assistance is

not eternal," but stressed that it is "particularly essential in the next two years, as Egypt completes its vast economic

development programme."

That approach was not challenged by anyone with whom Mubarak met, the ambassador

Turning to the role of the United States in the region, Mr. Sayed said that the post cold-war "has become more dangerous" than before.
"The world would become

even more dangerous if the United States withdraws from its role of leadership," he pre-dicted. "You cannot isolate vourself from a dangerous world," neither economically, nor strategically or politically, he said.

a demographic crisis in the Middle East, Mr. Barkan pointed out that Egypt's population grows by one million every seven months, Syria's population doubles every 20 years, the Palestinian population in Gaza increases by four per cent annually, and the median age in the Arab World is 16 years.

"Demographic growth creates pressures on governments, (which) find it increasingly difficult to meet these challenges," he said. The younger generation is "looking for housing, education and careers... looking at (current) governments and seeing no

"A decade from today, we will witness a major crisis of ideology and confidence in the Arab World that will lead to a search for a new ideological course upon which to build the history of the coming generation," he said.

"Nationalism, secularism, and socialism are becoming bankrupt ideologies," Mr. Barkan added. "The only immediately available option in sight is Islamic fundamentalism. We may expect - in a décade — á substantial increase in the power of Islamic fundamentalism.

# Arab Americans win mayoral elections

WASHINGTON (USIA) -Following is the text of a press release issued by the Arab American Institute on Friday: Arab Americans captured three mayoral seats and triumphed in a half dozen local and state council and legislative races across the country in the

Nov. 2 elections. Bridgeport, Connecticut. Mayor Jseph Ganim won a landslide reelection victory. capturing almost 80 per cent of the vote. Another incumbent. Central Fails, Rhode Island, Mayor Thomas Lazich also easily outdistanced his nearest competitor with 60 per cent of

Other big winners were Teresa Ann Issac, vice mayor in Lexington, Kentucky, who finished first in a field of seven to retain her city council seat

Hartwell, Georgia, Mayor Joan Haddad Saliba did not face opposition and was therefore reelected.

In city council races across the country, top winners inlcuded incumbent Dearborn, Michigan. City Councilwoman Suzanne Sareini; Ann Arbor. Michigan, City Councilman Peter Nicolas: Danbury, Connecticut. City Councilman Robert Yamin: Lawrence, Massachusetts, City Councilman Steve Kfoury and Tenafly. New Jersey. City councilman Edward Deeb.

Joe Palaia was elected to the New Jersey State Senate with 66 per cent of the vote and Frederick Marshall was elected to the Eric County, New York.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Oueen Alia International Arport 1d (RS)52855, where it should always be verified.

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MARKET PRICES



### Bosnian girl undergoes pre-surgery eye tests

By Elia Nasrallah Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Janetta Kachmo, a 12-year-old Bosnian girl, will undergo various medical vests in preparation for her eye argery scheduled for Monday, said Ghassan Jayousi, an eye specialist at Jordan University Hospital.

Janetta, who was admitted to hospital Thursday evening, is suffering from a bleeding in the left eye caused by a shrapnel injury she incurred in June during a battle in Bosnia, Dr. Jayousi told the Jordan Times Friday. He said he hoped that the tests will pinpoint the affected area so that the operation will be successful.

Janetta, who is accompanied here by her mother, has sight weakness from the injury, but the condition can be corrected

by removing the shrapnel, said Dr. Jayousi.

He said Janetta is the sixth Bosnian eye patient to be treated at Jordan University Hospital: the other five have been repatriated, he added.

Dr. Jayousi said a total of 20 Bosnians suffering various eye injuries were treated in Jordan so far.

Janetta and hundreds of other Bosnian nationalists now living in Jordan are being cared for under a programme by the Hashemite Charity Organisation (HCO) upon directives from His Majesty King Hus-

According to Saleh Ulewah, head of the HCO health section, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) office in Amman arranged for Janetta to come to Jordan for the surgery.

# Germany to reschedule JD 41m of Jordan's debt

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Germany has talien a decision in principle to reschedule DM86 million (about JD41 million) of Jordan's debt and plans to formalise an agreement early next year, a senior German diplomat said Friday.

Mathias Myers, first secretary at the German embassy here, said the issue was discussed in general terms during Wednesday's visit to Jordan of German Foreign Minister Klaus Ki. kel, in the context of the Kingdom's efforts to address it foreign debt, which currently stands at \$6.68 billion.

Jordan owes Germany a total of DM523 million

(JD234 million), Mr. Myers told the Jordan Times.

Elaborating on some of the comments made by Mr. Kinkel at a press conference he held after his talks here, Mr. Myers said a DM95 million figure the minister mentioned represented the DM86 million expected to be rescheduled and DM9.5 million (JD4 million) to be converted to grants.

The conversion agreement will include a stipulation that 50 per cent of the amount will be used in environmental protection projects in Jordan, he added.

Clarifying another com-ment made by the minister in response to a question on the Arab boycott of Israel, Mr. Myers said the issue was discussed with Jordanian officials, but not in a global context or as a German effort to lift the Arab embargo on trade with Israel or firms

dealing with the Jewish state. Under new regulations adopted by the government, German firms are banned from providing certificates of origin and ports of call of ships as demanded by the Arab countries in a bid to block the entry of Israeli products or goods with Israeli

panies could provide certificates saying that the goods are of German origin or any other country as the case may be, and list the names of the ports that the ships carrying them make, Mr. Myers said. "Instead of saying the goods are not of Israeli ori-

At the same time, the com-

gin, the certificates could say they are of German origin if they are German products or stipulate the country's name if they are not of German origin," Mr. Myers noted.

Similarly, he said, instead of certifying that they did not call at an Israeli port, the ships could list the ports of call they make and still meet the requirement of the boycott of Israel provisions.

"It is a matter of turning a negative certificate into a positive certificate in a manner which satisfies all parties involved," he said. Mr. Myers said the issue.

was raised during Mr. Kink-el's talks in Saudi Arabia as well as Jordan and both countries agreed on the new arrangement.

The German diplomat confirmed that Mr. Kinkel met with the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan, Noor Al Weiss, but said the talks had little to do with political relations between Germany and Iraq and focused on the possibilities of a release for a German

national serving an eight-year sentence in an Iraqi jail. "It was a humanitarian move adopted in line with the policy of the government of Germany of responding to appeals from the German people," Mr. Myers said.

He said that before Mr. Kinkel set out on his latest Middle East visit, the parents of Key Sonderman, a German student who was arrested in Iraqi territory early this yea. and sentenced for

illegal entry, appealed to him to intervene with the Iraqi government.

"It was in response to this request that Mr. Kinkel met with the Iraqi ambassador," Mr. Myers said. He declined to reveal how Ambassador Weiss responded to the approach.

Other sources said the Irai envoy said the government of Saddam Hussein might be willing to respond positively to the call if a letter to this effect was sent by the German president.

"There are other European countries facing a simi-lar situation, and I think there will be a coordinated European decision in this regard," said a well-placed European source.

# Privatising state-owned utilities, industries could prove fruitful for Jordan — U.S. expert

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Privatisation of state-owned utilities and industries has worked successfully in some third world countries which faced economic difficulties similar to those of Jordan, and, given the expertise available locally, the experiment could prove highly fruitful in the Kingdom, says an American expert with more than 30 years of experience in dealing with state economies.

Edgar C. Harrell, who headed the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan from 1978-81, before assuming the job of special assistant to the AID administrator for commercialisation of technology, believes that privatisation, if applied in the proper form, could be part of an answer to Jordan's economic problems.

But, he admitted in an interview with the Jordan Times last week: the situation needs, closer study before. passing judgement.

Many Latin American " countries have embraced privatisation of huge state-owned utilities incurring large losses, thus freeing themselves to deal with problems such as external debt, he said, citing amples.

In many of the countries, he said, privatisation did not only mean freeing the state of the burden of perennial losses, but also solutions to foreign debt in the form of swapping outstanding loans against equity in privatised state-owned entities.

Furthermore, he said, such an approach also ensures raising the level of efficiency of the entity in a manner that would serve the overall economic interests of the country.

According to Dr. Harrell, who was here on a short visit last week, Jordan has many of the positive elements such as a relatively free market economy and infrastructure and, more importantly, human expertise, that were not available to some of those countries which have already turned to privatisation, and these elements could actually be an asset.

For instance, an efficient bureaucrat running a state-'owned' commercial entity should be able to do a much better job once he or she steps out of the constraints imposed by state control, said Dr. Harrell, who believes that many of the Jordanian officials in senior positions

are of such calibre. Freeing state capital from lished themselves as profitable under government con-trol by relinquishing ownership allows the government to use the funds elsewhere to create more job opportunities and initiate new prog-rammes which also could eventually be handed over to the private sector, said Dr. Harrell, who heads a private international consultancy

Hotels and public transport companies among others fall in this category, he said. Dr. Harrell agrees that, as

in the case of most countries which adopted privatisation. one of the main problems is labour unrest since layoffs inevitably follow the change of ownership from govern-ment hands to the private

But, he suggests, a wellprepared strategy to deal with this problem must inevitably include alternate employment opportunities created by the funds freed through privatisation, preceded by thorough discussions and dialogue with all sectors concerned. The most important ele-

ment in any approach to privatisation is the political will at the highest level to adopt it as an effective long-term means for economic change,

He also stressed that the pointed out.

government should not depend on commercial ventures as a source of revenues. Such activities should be strictly left to the private sector, which in turn could better serve the national economy through creating employment opportunities and paying

There are no general global parameters to guide privatisation procedures, he said. Each country has its own peculiarities and situations and the process could be adjusted to absorb and deal with possible nuances if thorough studies are made in

"Regulatory" regimes will have to be created in vital sectors of the economy, but these should not mean protection leading to monopo-lies, he said. "What is the use of shifting a public sector monopoly to a private sector monopoly if the general idea is to create a free market economy?" he said.

In sectors, like telecommunications, freeing funds should not be the only consideration, he said. Allowing a "strategic partner" to come in with technology is very important to enable the country to keep itself abreast of the latest developments and techniques in the field, he

# Bank consortium grants JPMC JD 12.5m to expand Shidiya plant

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) has been granted a JD12.5 million loan from a consortium of local banks administered by the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) for the expansion of the JPMC Shidiya plant, according to a contract signed in Amman

The loan will be used to buy the necessary materials. machinery and equipment to help expand the Shidiya plant, said Jawad Haddeed, the general manager of ABC, at a press conference held at Forte Grand Hotel.

Mr. Haddeed said other Jordanian banks contributing to the loan, which is guarnateed by the government, include the Housing Bank, the Business Bank; the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank and the Social Security Corporation (SCC). Sameh Madani: director

general"of "FMC, 'said the' equipment to be purchased will belp treat low grade materials in order to make the final product more marketable. Mr. Madani added that the

equipment will be used to convert raw material into a highly concentrated commercial pro-"It is a plan by local banks to

the plant will start producing in



Arab Banking Corporation General Manager Jawad Haddeed (centre) and Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Ayusley Floyd)
Sameh Whilath (Reft) Thirredly althounded the vincional northings we conseque a mouth libertory of the consequence of the consequen

plant which has good quality and a sufficient quantity of phosphate, we will be able to compete with international

markets at a lower cost," he added. Mr. Madani maintained that

Sameh Mistate (1821) Financially and decided the state of the production of the french promptants to increase the production of the french promptants to phosphate from 1.5 to 2 million decided to establish a 220,000 tone phosphate. tonnes annually, thus, increasing the opportunity for JPMC to expand and compete in the international market, as well as

provide 350 job opportunities. The preliminary negotiations regarding the Shidiya plant project started last Octo-

granting of JD 12.5 million loan to JPMC from constortium of local banks (Staff photo by

> phoric acid plant at Shidiya. The plant would use 800,000

tonnes of rock phosphate and the contract with the companies would last 10 years, during which the manufacturers would buy the Jordanian phosphate at the prevailing 1996 and is expected to earn ber when the JPMC signed a market price in India.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

- Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery'
- (telephone 643251/2). ☆ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Baladna Art Gallery. Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'bi at Alia Art Gallery
- (9:30-13:30 and 1500-1800).
- Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloos at the French Cultural Centre.
- \* Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abu Zraiq entitled Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### Sëminar

\* Seminar entitled "Two Months After the Signing of the Agreement of Principles Between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation: The Size of Achievement and the Size of Damage" with the participation of Dr. Tayseer Arouri, Saji Salameh, Abdul Raheem Mallouh, and Nabil 'Amr at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00

### Karameh dam to be built by Italian firm largest dam in Jordan after the

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has awarded a tender to Salini Italy, an Italian construction firm, to build the Karameh dam, and said that water to be stored in the reservoir was expected to irrigate 40,000 dunums in the Jordan Valley

region.
JVA Secretary General

Abdul Aziz Wishah said that the idea of constructing the Karameh dam surfaced in the early 1980s, but it was only towards the end of 1992 that the final designs for the JD51 million dam were completed.

Speaking after the tender signing ceremony Thursday at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Dr. Wishah said that the JVA carefully studied the effects of earthquakes on the dam, the quality of water that would be stored and the

strength of the foundation.
The 40-metre high dam will be built in 42 months starting next month in Wadi Mullah. on a tributary of the Jordan River, said Dr. Wishah.

King Talal Dam, the Karameh dam will have an overall capacity of 55 million cubic metres of water, added Dr. Wishah.

It is one in a series of dams to be constructed by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in order to double Jordan's present rain water storage capacity, according to Dr. Wishah.

### Designed as the second Government endorses National Strategy on Women

AMMAN (Petra) - The government has endorsed the National Strategy on Women which was drawn up by a national committee on women's affairs chaired by Her Royal Highness Princess

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali said that government departments should take the

required measures for the implementation of the strategy which was ratified following a series of seminars and conferences held in various governo-

The strategy, which is based on the general framework of the Islamic Sharia, the Constitution and the National Arab society's values and traditions and seeks to strengthen the unity and cohesion of members of society and pre-

serve family integration. It aims at handling women's issues, and calls for giving the women of Jordan an effective role in socio-economic development, especially as the Constitution guarantees equal

rights and opportunities for

The strategy provides for legislation on women's participation in politics, economy, social services and health affairs, and gives special attention to women responsible for raising families or caring for orphans, as well as illiterate

# Bedouins keep politics at bay

(Continued from page 1)

Wasat (the centre) district, 14 candidates from the various clans of the Bani Sakher tribe are competing for their two parliamentary seats.

The young is starting a re-volution against the tribal leadership but are not succeeding because they are not channelling it right," said Saleh Kneian Al Fayez, a lawyer from the district, in reference to the large number of candidates contesting the elections.

With the split among the clans allowed to contest the two seats, only candidates who have the support of their clan and an appeal to other voters stand a real chance in the elections, said Mr. Al Fayez.

Former Deputy Jamal Al Khreisha, who won 3,582 votes in 1989, fits the description.

Mr. Khreisha, a former minister of state in the Taher Masri and Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker governments, is the only candidate of his clan in the Muagger area, about 30 kilometres southeast of Amman. Mr. Khreisheh is expected to win the majority of the 3,588 registered votes of the Khreisha and Gdah clans and, as a former official who had provided services to many voters, he is likely to win votes

from outside the clan. The rest of the other clans are divided, with the Al Fayez fielding two candidates, the two Jbour candidates, the Al Amer-Ziben five, the Ka'abneh one, the Shre'a one, the Heeish one, and the Khdeir

With 4,695 registered votes, the Jbour clan could have assured a seat for one of its members had it put its support behind one candidate. The clan's votes, however, would be split between the two competing brothers, Barakat and Saud Al Zheir. Mr. Fayez said that would reduce the chances of both unless one withdraws or the clan decides to support

A former deputy and minister of health, Mohammad Adoub Al Ziben, who won 2.814 votes in 1989, could wrest votes from outside his clan but will have to share the 4,460 registered votes of the Al Amer-Ziben with four other

One of his main challengers is Daifallah Mansour Al Ziben, a former chief of military intelligence, who enjoys respect among people of his tribe, which inhabits an area that extends over parts of the governorate's of Amman,

Irbid, Mafraq and Zarqa.
The 8,693 registered voters of the Ghbein clan (which includes Al Fayez, the Kasabneh, the Salayteh and the Khdeir) would also have to be shared by four contenders, thus reducing the chances of the clan to send one of its members to parliament.

North bedouins

A former deputy and a member of the Upper House of Parliament (the Senate) are among the 10 candidates for



the two seats of the north bedouin districts, and both have good chances of becoming the representatives of this area in the north-eastern de-

Senator Nawaf Al Qadi, who lost his bid for election in 1989 due to splits within his tribe, has this time the unanimous support of the Bani Khaled tribe, which has 9,000 registered voters who mainly inhabit the town of Hosheh. With the rest of the candidates competing for the remaining 24,146 registered voters, Sen. Qadi is very likely to quit the Senate and join the country's

Former Deputy Sa'ad Hayel Srour, who win 3,569 votes in 1989, is challenged by a member of his Masaeed clan of the Ahl Al Jehal (Mountain dwellers), tribes but still has an almost certain chance of winning his reelection due to the reservoir of support he has

among other clans.

12th Lower House of Parlia-

Mr. Srour, a former minister of public works, has extended help to people of his district and is likely to win the backing of members of other tribes. Almost each of the main tribes in this district are fielding a candidate, a factor which,

as is the case in the bedouin of

constituencies in the Kingdom, will work to the disadvantage

The Al Sarhan tribe is fielding two candidates, Al Shorafat one, Al Sardiyeh one, Al A'thamat one (former deputy Mohammad Al Muarer who secured 3,845 votes in 1989. and Al Tawafsheh one. Fares Al Madhi, a member of the Al Issa tribe, is running on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front (IAF).

Mr. Madhi, however, is not expected to be among the strong contenders because his tribe, the smallest among Ahl 'Al Jebal, said they would only support him if he ran as their

The sands of the Jordanian desert are not yet a fertile ground for political ideologies. The political platform of the IAF will thus be competing with traditions that for long governed life in the Jordanian desert. The Bedouins are not known to be strongly inclined towards mixing religion with

politics. Bedouin traditions are still too strong to defeat, said Mr. Al Fayez, who lost his bid for election as a political candidate for the bedouins of the centre

tributed to this article.

district in 1989. Al Ra'i correspondent in Mafraq, Ghazi Haddad, con-

### International culture festival awards director for contributions to Arab theatre By Rana Husseini The 46-year-old Sayed said

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A Jordanian participant in the 1993 Carthage International Cultural Festival (CICF) in Tunisia recently was awarded a gold medal and a meritorial certificate for his work in the Arab and Jorda-

nian theatre movement.

Hatem Sayed, a director who started his theatre career in Jordan in 1972, is the first Jordanian to be honoured with this award. Mr. Sayed said he was delighted to receive the medal, awarded once every two years

to five participants who contribute a distinguished work. "I can't really describe the way I feel, since I am the first Jordanian to win this award," said Mr. Sayed who is also the Art Department manager at the Ministry of Culture.

"I am very happy to learn that somebody appreciates and takes my work into consideration, especially that it (the recognition) is coming from an Arab country like Tunisia." This, he said, indicates that such countries are knowledgeable about contemporary Arab

this award is presented to individuals who devote their time to art and the theatre movement and those who are still contributing to theatre and the arts and leave a mark on peoples lives.

The first festival by the CICF was held in 1983. Mr. Sayed said that Jordan participated in every festival since the start. He added that Jordan tries to participate in all Arab and international arts festivals.

This year the CICF, which ran from Oct. 14 to Oct. 24, hosted 34 Arab and foreign countries, and Jordan participated with a play entitled "Yoya Ser Al Maward (Yoya, Secret of Rose Water). According to Mr. Sayed, who led the Jordanian delegation to the festival, the play reflects. the human concerns in the world. "The medal I received was not a reward for this play, it was just an appreciation for my previous art work," Mr.

Sayed explained. Mr. Sayed graduated from Art Academy in Cairo in 1971 and received his Bachelors degree in art theatre and started



Hatem Sayed

working for the Ministry of Culture in 1972 as a director. He served as the ministry's art director from 1977 to 1988 and directed more than 16 plays

during his 21-year career. He considers a 1978 play he directed entitled Rasoul Min Karieh Tmerieh Lilistifham An Masalet Al Harb Wal Salam (A Messenger from Tamrieh Village Finds Out About War and Peace Issues)

one of his better works. Mr. Sayed said he depends on the literature of other countries he has visited for ideas for the plays. He said such books often express his own personal

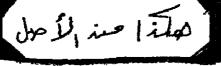
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opinions.

Mr. Sayed's recently directed Al Zabel (The Garbage Man), a play which was nominated for four awards at the Jordanian Theatre Festival in 1993. The play discusses the problems of a suburb through its garbage - the garbage man reveals the people's secrets

from their garbage. Mr. Sayed said that the 16 plays he directed are only the first steps towards directing more plays. "I don't consider myself as having done anything yet, this is only the beginning of more plays in the near future."

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# Leaning to wrong side

IN THEORY, the defeat of the former mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, at the hand of former Minister of Health in the government of Yitzhak Shamir, Ehud Olmert, can be a setback to the peace process and to the peaceful coexistence between Jews and Arabs in the Holy City. Although the subject of Jerusalem has been deferred for negotiation at a future date, the election of a hardline Likudnick will certainly make such talks very difficult. The new mayor has already declared that Jews can settle anywhere in Jerusalem including the Arab quarters of the city's east. This is a clear signal to the Palestinians and Arabs that the fate of Jerusalem would not very easily be determined under the accord reached between the PLO and Israel.

Emotions in East Jerusalem are bound to escalate as a result of this development. Relations between the two peoples inhabiting the city are destined to become much more exacerbated. Palestinians now have cause to suspect that the promises to negotiate the future of East Jerusalem on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 have been effectively eliminated.

And this is not all.

The fallout from the triumph of the Likud bloc over the Labour Party not only in Jerusalem but also in some other Israeli cities is bound to have negative impact on the peace process especially in the context of the bilateral Palestinian-Israeli talks in Taba and Cairo. These talks are already stalemated and the new tide in favour of the Likud Party could harden the position of the Israelis. If the Likud could project the results of these elections as some kind of referendum on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Kabin's peace i Han, men me mru Israeli peace drive could be weakened.

Perhaps it is still premature to make iron clad judgements on the implications of the mayorial elections. Lack of significant advances on the peace fronts, coupled with an increase in violence in the occupied territories, must have swayed the opinion of Israeli voters in Jerusalem.

Whether the decision of Jerusalemites to boycott the elections was right or wrong is not easy to judge. Politically speaking the decision to boycott is a sound one. The Palestinian leadership could not have urged its constituency to vote in the election altogether lest this be construed as admission of Israel annexation of the city. Yet the local leadership in Jerusalem itself could have taken a different approach. Certainly a Likud mayor and council will exert great effort on consolidating Jewish control over the city. That will only make the negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem all the more difficult.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily commented on the success of a member of the extremist Likud Party as mayor of Jerusalem saying that such a development is not expected to draw any manifestation or dismay from the Western nations which support Israel. Of course, Washington and its allies would not say that the success of the Likud would be a threat to peace, knowing that the Likud Party is strongly opposed to any peace deal with the Arabs and the abandoning of occupied Arab land, said the paper. The double standard policy followed by the Western nations does not allow any Western capital to criticise the Zionist and racist entity now ruling the occupied Arab lands or express fear and concern over the prospects of peace as a result of the Likud policies which advocate the construction of Jewish settlements on Arab territory, added the paper. The victory of a Likud member in the Jerusalem municipal elections is a clear message to the outside world that Israel and the Israeli people are not oriented towards peace, continued the daily. It said that the Arabs have to examine the results of the Israeli municipal elections very carefully and the victory of the Likud in Jerusalem. The Arabs, said the paper, should realise that they are not facing a single party called Likud which is resolved to maintain occupation of Arab land, but rather a hostile nation full of hatred towards the Arabs and Muslims and that continues to draw up plots against them.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily described the Israeli settlers' attacks on the Arab civilians of the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip as barbaric actions. Despite its declared policy of working for peace, the Israeli government shows no tendency at all to bridle such atrocities perpetrated against the innocent civilians and their personal property, said Saleh Al Qallab. The atrocities against the Arabs are being executed with full knowledge and backing from the Israeli government and armed forces which stand by doing nothing to protect the Arab population, continued the writer. In light of the precent events, the Palestinian leaders ought to take note that the Rabin government is conducting an underhand dealing and not honouring the deal signed with the PLO last September in Washington, said the writer. He said that it should be clear to the PLO leadership that its negotiations with Israel would present more difficulties than the armed struggle and the state of war. Therefore, he said, the PLO should take an appropriate, firm stand in the face of such atrocities and insist that the Israeli government take full responsibility for ending the attacks on the Palestinians if a peace formula is to be worked out and if the PLO-Israel deal is to be implemented.

Jordanian Perspectives

# Casting the ballots — a sign of political maturity

The increase is attributed to the number of Jordanians who

turned 19 since the last elections, held in November 1989, (this

could be estimated at around 500,000 based on the annual four

per cent growth in the Kingdom's population) and the number of voters among the 320,000 plus Jordanians who returned

home in the wake of the Gulf crisis of 1990-91 (officials and

Three days to go before Jordan's first multiparty elections since 1956, the campaign scene is predictably very hot, officials are busy ensuring that the infrastructure for the balloting and counting process is in place and most voters, presumably, have made up their minds one way or another.

It would be a risky venture to assess the possible outcome of the polls since all givens in Jordan's past elections have been scrambled by the introduction three months ago of the one-person, one-vote formula into the election law.

But no matter who emerges the winner in Monday's race, it could be safely said that the entire process would definitely reflect the political maturing of the Jordanians as is evident in the facts and figures of the electorate.

The Ministry of Interior puts the total number of registered voters at 1.514 million — an increase of more than 50 per cent

from the electorate of 1989. It is relevant to compare the figures related to the 1993 elections to those of 1989.

The given figures for the November 1989 elections were: Population: Three million. Jordanians above the voting age: 1.4 million. Actual eligible electorate: 1.2 million (taking into account

the exclusion of security personnel from the process). Number of candidates: 800

Number of acknowledged political parties: Zero (except the Muslim Brotherhood, which operated as a political group in the guise of a charity organisation since 1957 when a ban was imposed on all political parties).

Number of registered voters: Around 9: ...000. Number of voters who collected their voting cards: less than

A closer dissection of the figures indicates that: - While the total number of Jordanians of voting age today is around two million, the exclusion of members of the security forces, including the military and police, as well as the general intelligence and civil defence departments, brings down the electorate to 1.8 million.

The 1.8 million figure compares to the 1.2 million of 1989.

analysts say the number of the so-called "returnee" voters is around 160,000, but only around 100,000 of them have. actually registered in the roster. Expectations that around 1.2 million of the registered voters are expected to collect their voting cards and anywhere between 70 and 75 per cent of them would actually cast their votes on Monday are the best indications of the political maturity that characterises the Jordanian scene today. In 1989, when Jordan held its first general elections in 22 years, it was clear that many voters did not actually think that

the process was indeed part of a dram...ic change in the Kingdom's political scene. Many thought it would be a repetition of the traditional process of tribalism and financial clout overriding all other considerations to produce a docile parliament along the predictable lines past legislative authorities have followed, by and large, in the Kingdom.

That accounted for the less than 700,000 of the nearly one million registered voters actually collecting their cards and less than 550,000 of them actually exercising their right to vote on polling day.

But things have changed a lot since then. Despite the lacklustre performance of Jordan's 11th Parliament in addressing many of the bread and butter issues of Jordan's proletariat, Jordanians have taken note of the fact that the 1989 elections did indeed herald an irreversible process of democratisation and liberalisation in the country. And, as such, they have also realised, for the first time, that their destiny lies in their hands alone.

Another relevant figure is that around than 20,000 people. representing 0.5 per cent of the total population and one per cent of Jordanians of voting age and 0.75 per cent of the eligible electorate, are registered members of the 20 and plus political parties which emerged after the enactment of the new law on political parties in September last year.

This figure has to be seen against comparable figures from the Third World as well as some of the advanced countries which boast of their democratic process. In some of the countries of Europe, where democracy became a part of life several decades ago, the average active participation in political parties is around four per cent of the population. Given the fact that the Jordanians were given the choice of enrolling in political parties only one year ago, the collective figure from the membership rosters of the political groups of the Kingdom today is very compatible with the average

By and large, the figures of the Jordanian election scene have also to be seen against the introduction of the oneperson, one-vote system in August. Given the loud cries of many politicians and groups against the move, on whatever grounds, one would have expected apathy to grow among the voters along the lines that prevailed in 1989: that the election process was not going to be any different from the polls of the 1950s and 60s.

Contrary to all indications and predictions, the one-person, one-vote formula has contributed significantly to raising the political awareness of Jordanians regardless of the shortcomings in the overall application of the formula, given the fact that voting districts and constituencies remain unchanged.

But, as the figures now indicate, there is little doubt that Jordanian voters, regardless of their political persuasions and perceptions, have politically matured enough to realise that the Kingdom is actually deep into the democratisation process launched in 1989, and they would be the losers if they stayed out since it is their fate and future at stake in the hands of the Parliament expected to be elected in three days from now. This sentiment should be seen against the previous convictions of many that nothing was going to change regardless whether there was a parliament in the country or not.

The result of that comparison today to me represents

# Fate of First and Second districts

(Continued from page 1)

which has taken a very personal form of attack against PLO leader Yasser Arafat, has alienated many residents of the Second District even among those who oppose the peace accord.

Analysts believe that the door is more open for pro-PLO supporters, leftist and tribal candidates to do better in contesting the seats in the two districts.

But candidates who traditionally support the PLO are now more deeply divided over the Palestinian autonomy talks between Israel and the organisation.

Huge banners supporting the PLO and others condemning the Oslo accord are indicative of the raging conlict over the his

The outspoken support for PLO by some contenders is viewed as a sign of a hidden war between the supporters of the organisation, particu-larly of Fatch, and the Muslim Brotherhood.

Four years ago, Fatch, which maintains a sizeable presence in the refugee camps and eastern Amman. did not take clear sides in the election campaign, a move that eventually led to the triumph of the Islamists, according to activists in the

This time around Fateh supporters are said to be backing a number of candidates, but their votes will be split among several contenders who are in the frontline of defending the PLO - in their platform and banners.

It remains to be seen if supporters of Palestinian groups, whether Fatch or the left, would be able to infiltrate what has become an Islamist stronghold after the 1989 elections.

In general, though most of the candidates in the two areas are of Palestinian origin. Some of them are running merely to make a political statement that the Israel-PLO accord should not affect their political rights in

The leading leftist candi-date in the First District is Mr. Azmi Al Khawaja, who is backed by the People's Democratic Party DPD (Hashd) and the People's Unity Party (PUP), or Wahda. He is a former Palestine National Council (PNC) member, who spent years in jail for his activism in the

Jordanian arena. Although Mr. Khawaja is a very strong contender, there are at least five other candidates competing for the third seat who could split the leftist-pro-PLO (groups) votes in the First District. These include Hamada Fara'aneh, a columnist; Dr. Mohammad No'oman, who was expelled from Hashd for running against the party's candidate Kamal Nasser, president of Jordan's Bar Association; Theeb Abdullah, independent Islamist; Musa Kweider. a unionist and a member of the Progressive Socialist Party (Communist); and Fuad Dabbour, Baathist.

The two major leftist parties (Hashd and Al Wahda) were deeply disappointed when their agreement to launch a joint progressive

list, backing Mr. Khawaja, failed in bringing about a broader leftist-nationalist coalition.

Fatch supporters are said to be firmly behind Mr. Nasser who has flaunted a huge banner in the middle of Al Hussein refugee camp expressing support for the PLO and rejection of transforming Jordan into a substitute homeland for the Palesti-

Candidates of Palestinian origin are trying to make a point that there is no contradiction between the Palestinian refugees' claim to their historical right to return to their homeland and exercising their political rights in

But there is a clear distinction between the attitudes of are mainly concentrated in the First District and in the Wihdat camp in the Second District — and refugees displaced in 1967.

For while the refugees of 1948 are more concerned not to jeopardise their civil and political rights in Jordan since their hopes for repatriation have been diminished following the Oslo accord the second category is keen to keep both.

The current elections campaign in the two districts has revealed a growing trend among Palestinians, mainly traditionalist politicians and notables, who are already rallying support for future unity between Jordan and a future Palestinian entity on federal

The attitude of traditionalist politicians, some of whom were members of the old Jordanian Parliament representing the West Bank, such as Mohammad Thouaib and Wahid Al Ja'abri in the Second District, is consistent with their long-standing position.

But it was Mr. Fara anch. who has spent most of his life in PLO groups, who is actively and persistently pursuing the goal of unity "on equal basis between the two people," and who publicly expresses his opposition to the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

"I will oppose the idea of two independent Jordanian and Palestinian entities," he

Mr. Fara aneh has become the first candidate to contest the elections while he remains a member of the Palestine National Council. The Interior Ministry initially turned down his application for nomination but the courts later revoked that decision.

Mr. Fara'aneh, at one stage a leftist who spent ten years in jail, does not see a contradiction since his "membership of the PNC and candidacy are consistent with the goal of future unity."

Sharp differences among pro-PLO groups and leftist candidates in the first district have thwarted all attempts by mediators to talk the candidates to withdraw in favour of Mr. Khawaja. The split and scattered votes will further boost Sheikh Fakir's chances as well those of tribal candidates.

According to experts, around 85 per cent of the residents of the first district are Palestinian refugees,

The Al Da'aja tribe has the most dominant presence in the area. Al Da'aja tribe are the original landowners of the areas where Palestinian refugees settled when they first came to Jordan - including the Hussein refugee camp, and the neighbourhoods of Al Nozha, Wadi Al Hadadeh, Al Hashemi and Al Mahata A prominent Al Da'aja

leader, Hamed Abu Jamous, came fourth in 1989 but failed by a huge margin of votes, (4362 votes) after the three Islamists, (independent) Sheikh Faqir (13,418 votes), (Brotherhood) Abdul Aziz Jabr (11,188 votes) and (Brotherhood) Majeed Khalifeh (9,708 votes). Dr. Khalifeh had pulled out from the race earlier on, and Mr. Abu Jamous thus becomes a more serious contender. Mr. Abu Jamous, will not rely solely on tribal vote. In fact, he seems to muster considerable support among refugees and, like many Da'aja notables, enjoys a good reputation as

an advocate of national unity. Another Da'aja, who is actually the "official" candidate of the clan, Rashed Al Brayseh, is influential in the Hashemi neighbourhood and is hoping to attract Palestinian votes by offering "ser-

vices" for refugees In the second district the strongest leftist candidates are Mr. Rateb Al Jueidi and Mr. Nizar Al Kayed. But while Mr. Kayed officially represents the Jordanian Progressive Party — an offshoot of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) that has no official ties with the PLO, Mr. Jueidi is running as independent, aithough he is closely affiliated with Al Wahda

Mr. Jueidi is appealing for support among the big concentration of fellow Hebronites in the second district. A more traditional politician Waheed Al Jaabari will also syphon off some of the Hebronite vote.

In 1989, the second districts' three seats went to two Brotherhood figures and an independent Islamist . They are Sheikh Abu Zant (19,343). Ali Hawamdeh (12,765 votes) and (independent, and associate of former deputy Leith Shbeilat) Sheikh Yacoub Qarrash (5,082). Dr. Hawamdeh and Sheikh Qarrash have not entered the race. A Fateh candiate, Fahd Bayari, who is

(Continued from page 1)

chanted songs glorifying jihad and lamenting the fate of the crippled Palestinian leader, Ahmad Yassin, whom Israel is refusing to release from a Gaza prison.

But the applause and enthusiasm of the crowd was marketly low compared with the enthusiasm and numbers of the Islamist supporters that gathered in the same square in Wahdat just four years ago.

A storekeeper across the street from the rally place remarked that although both Mr. Mansour and maverick candidate Sheikh Abdul

president of Al Wihdat camp's cultural club, can also do well in this district, depending on whether supporters of PLO can bring about a sea charge in the Islamists' fortunes.

Activists and analysts say that this polarisation of Palestinians, according to place of origin, has been reinforced by the one-person, one-vote system as many contenders believe that minimum votes could win them parliamentary seats. This phenomenon, the

practical parallel to tribal affiliations among Jordamians, is one of the trademarks of the campaign in the first and second districts and probably among concentration of Jordanians of Palestinian origin. Dr. Hawan

ment by Mr. Mansour in the second district, a move ordered by the IAF, is said to be due to a sharp drop in the former's popularity, who last time relied heavily on Sheikh Abu Zant's popularity to get the votes. It remains unclear how the

IAF is planning to split its votes between its two candidates in the second districts (in the First, it has only one. Mr. Jabr). Some suggest the IAF is going to split female and male votes between the two: others believe there will be a geographic distribution of voters: neighbourhoods will be divided between the two candidates.

To a large extent the outcome of the elections will be determined by the turnout on Monday. A low turnout is expected to serve the IAF, who will make sure their members and supporters will show up at the polling booths. In the first district of 97,735 registered voters, a candidate needs to secure above 4,000 votes. While in the second district, of 111,752 registered voters, a winner will have to get at least 5,000

By Friday afternoon, the percentage of those who had actually collected their voting cards were 40 and 50 per cent in the first and second districts respectively, probably the lowest figures in the

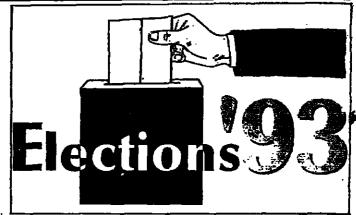
Kingdom. Talking into consideration the fragmentation of the two districts, the high number of contenders, 21 and 22 respectively, the future deputies might rely on less than 2,000 votes resulting in a very narrow representation of the two

### Munem Abu Zant may win IAF rally seats in Parliament again,

"this will be their last chance to prove that they can change our conditions here and make our lives better. Leave Palestine to the Palestinians, we here are concerned about Jordan.

This comment would undoubtedly not have been heard four years ago when the power divisions over the occupied territories where not as clearly drawn as they are today, according to an observer of the election scene here.

"Palestine is now in the hands of the PLO and Hamas. We here are not involved in what is happening, we are only observers," concluded the storekeeper.



### Fourth District challenges conservatives

(Continued from page 1)

this time around. "This is an introduction into politics for this young man. He may have a better chance during the next elections," one female member of the Hadid Tami

Jordan Times. A rival clan of the Hadid family, Sahab's Abu Zaid's, is fielding this time Ahmad Abu Zaid, who is also expected to challenge the Hadid presence as a representative of the Fourth Dis-

The IAF for its part has chosen a member of the Sahab-based Maharmneh clan as its candidate and will reportedly rely heavily on Sahab residents as well as the district's-Palestinian population to seek victory.

Rival elements, however, pushed two other member of Mr. Maharmneh's clan to run against him to weaken his chances. One of the two, Mohammad Al Maharmneh, withdrew from the race this weekened in favour of his cousin the IAF candidate, Mohammad Abdul Karim Maharmneh.

Candidate Maharmneh has thus replaced Hamzeh Mansour as the official Islamist contender in the Fourth District. Mr. Mansour was nominated by his party to run for one of the seats in the Second District along with Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu

Zant (see story above). "Most of the Palestinians here are conservative Hebronites who will vote for the IAF candidate, but some are expected to give their votes to Mr. Qatarneh." noted-Abu 'Alanda storekeeper

Mohammad Hashlemon. Abu 'Alanda residents have their own candidate. namely Mohammad Huneiti, who will represent his clan in these elections.

Land ownership and employer-employee relations dominate much of the politics here, which, except for some IAF activity, is exclusively limited to the male popula-

Many women did not vote in the 1989 elections here although many had collected their voting cards. Of the 33,000 eligible voters who had picked up their voting cards, only 19,000 voted in

Some 50,848 voters had collected their cards by the weekend and the "unknown" (or first-time) voters are expected to make the difference this time around.

Whether these first time voters will vote tribal, IAF or or Mr. Qatarneh remains to be seen. No one in fact is willing to say more than that there are some six frontrunners in the race. But even these, many observers here say, could be upset by a surprise winner or two.

## PLO puts off decision

(Continued from page 1) showed that it simply did not understand the concept of withdrawal.

But Major General Amnon Shahak, the chief Israeli delegate, said the Israelis presented the plan as a basis for negotiation, not as an ultima-

Reports in Israel said the PLO was angry because the plan would let Israeli troops travel between settlements on Gaza's main roads, leaving the impression that the Israelis had not left at all,

In Israel, meanwhile, the daily Hadashot said the defence ministry's adviser on the occupied territories, Danny Rothschild, flew secretly to London apparently to open a new channel with the PLO to bypass the Taba talks.

Rabin spokesman Gad Ben-Ari would not comment specifically on the report. He said Israel was sticking to the Taba format but left open the possibility Israel would pursue other approaches linked to the Taba negotiations.

### U.S. stand

Washington believes it will be hard for Israel and the PLO to complete an accord on selfrule before the Dec. 13 deadline but has no plans to get involved now in the talks, a senior U.S. official said Thurs-

condition of anonymity, said Washington as been kept fully briefed on the talks and would consider a request to intervene one came from both sides. But the administration does not believe the talks have collapsed and would prefer for

The official, who spoke on

Israel and the PLO to sort out the difficult issues on thier own, the official said. Palestinian negotiators in Jersualem said the Palestinians were seeking greater U.S. involvement in the process. Currently, American diplomats

are present at Taba, but not at the negotiating table. "It is not enough for the United States to advise parties to the conflict," Saeb Erekat, deputy head of the Palestinian delegation, told the AP. "They have to raise their level of participation in the talks, not

just watching and reporting."

Hanan Ashrawi, the spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation, said in a telephone interview from Washington that the United States "would prefer receiving a similar request from Israel" before in-

# Multi-talented artist expresses 'belonging'

him because by representing it

over periods of time, he keeps

a reference of what he is doing.

sees "how I changed or not

over years. I see what I disco-

vered in my vision, how ! changed a fixed thing; it gives

me an assessment of my

But most important of all to

Mr. Khammash are places.

They haunt him, he dreams of

Interested in details, he

knows his places well and feels

that "my whole existence is

uprooted when things I know

are torn apart. It is a sense of

place that they tear apart, and

me with it. I feel safe when red

poppies come back. They are

here, I am here, I am safe."

ment places, to keep them as

they are.

Thence the desire to docu-

A delicate, almost Chinese

or Japanese in representation,

jasmine, whose stem is inter-

woven in the fabric of darkness

around it, giving it a three-dimensional look, is also a

brilliant combination of col-

ours (or no colours as the artist

Painted at night, the heavy

mass of night is dark green,

blue, purple and the non-col-

our (and yet all colours

together), the white flower, is

sketched against this back-

with this composition of col-

ours and shapes. Two in-

teriors, of his own room, are

realised by the game of dark-

ness-light texture, of very low.

dark, and very high, light,

Sometimes water-colour and

oil are in the same painting. "It

is like in music, where the need

to shift from one register to

another brings in all sorts of

instruments. I shift oil into

water-colour. I do not need

heavy oil, but I also do not

need nothing (plain paper); so

I work in water-colour to rep-

All new works, Mr. Kham-

mash's frames will be on dis-

play at the Abdul Hameed

3. And for those with a de-

veloped sense of space, it will

be like viewing a documentary

about places that tomorrow the

rush for urbanisation might

erase for good.

oman Foundation until Dec.

resent lighter surfaces."

The artist works extensively

By Ica Wahbeh

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN - Among the temporary exhibitions hosted by Darat Al Funun's halls is that of Ammar Khammash. architect, painter, restorer, de-Signer of innovative spirit.

His water-colours on paper and oils on paper and wood mostly represent Jordan's architectural landscape which, Mr. Khammash feels, the artist has a duty to record for post-

erity.
"We should decipher our environment, register it, make our own Jordanian art. Why go abroad? Amman is a vertical buildings are abstractly built; Jordanian artists should be aware of this environment before dreaming of political subjects," says the artist talking about abstract and realism

Articulate and driven by the a priori knowledge of what he wants to do. Mr. Khammash believes that artists who want to create abstract works should first have a knowledge of

"You have to know reality to abstract. Art now went so abstract, it is self-destructive. All art in the West has landscape. We need this; without the foundation of documentary art we cannot jump to the Western art.'

The artist is fascinated by shadow: he studies and delves into its projection and intensity at different times of the year, is intent on what shapes the shadow - the object forming it and the object receiving it and considers as very important to know how a shadow of an object outside the painting is cast on the object in the painting while the viewer is between them, part, somehow,

of the process. So his landscapes, giving the sensation of space, are those of buildings, trees, nature basking under a glaring sun whose light the eye has difficulty to control and diminish.

Technically, the artist says, he draws in pencil on site and then "I paint what I want to get rid of, not what I want to show. I burn the spaces between trees and they come out like a photo negative. Sun here is very strong. You have overexposure on your eyes, sometimes to the point of hurting. It is like in photography: more aperture to light, more abstract the out-

abstract art; even what seems so is representation of a certain imaginary landscape, the way the artist perceives it: from elevation or in a plan.

"Do you look at something from high above or on horizon-Mr. Khammash asks when talking about two smalldimensioned oils on wood, products of his imagination and of high-concentration works, "as if in sleep or

The desire to three-dimensionalise the two dimensions, a desire characteristic to mankind since it started to represent the objects around him in times immemorial, is masterfully done by Mr. Khammash with his play of shadow and

He does so with nature, where the blades of soil ploughed or maybe washed away by rain stand out on the flat surface, and with man's creation, building hanging on top of each other on cliffs.

He does so by painting the shadow, structuring his works to have spots of dark and white "hot, unpainted areas."

work somehow against the rules of physics. I believe you can increase something without necessarily adding. sometimes even by sub-

so he subtracts colour to increase white spaces, adopting the water-colour technique (where dilution of a colour can

go to almost no colour) to oil. But he also has the desire to two-dimensionalise three dimensions. And this is obvious in some of the painted pieces of wood, "mostly furniture that I structured together" where colour defies angles and grooves, naturally created by the superimposition of wood bits, and stubbornly flows to create the impression of continuity, reducing two dimensions to one, sort of an inversed trompe l'oeil.

Other than architectural landscape, Mr. Khammash's works represent nature (in the form of trees, flowers, vegetation) and still-life.

The pomegranates, whole or halved, are exquisitely represented. The well-structured ripe fruit shows its inner bounty through the dried skin and its fleshy seeds when cut.

Colours have taste for Mr. yellow matter around the seeds is a bitter reminder of his childhood's encounter with it. And still-life is important for Snippets and tidbits from

# Campaign spurs jokes by Saltis who had been on receiving end; Islamists conduct internecine fights in open; journalists gag themselves

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. These are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way

IF A prize could be given for the best jokes in the Kingdom, it should be given to jokes not about Saltis this time but on the election campaign. In a casual interview with a citizen of the city this week on the chances of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) in the election, he said: "No. there is no gain from placing them in Parliament." Asked why, he answered: "If Hasbul Latof couldn't do anything in Russia, do you think Abdul Latif will be able to in Jordan?" He was directly referring to former chairman of the Russian parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov and comparing him to Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat. But to him Latouf sounded close enough to Latif for him to draw political conclusions. Sometimes analysis can be based on the most unlikely parallels.

ANNOUNCING SUPPORT for one candidate or another in the Third District is risky business, it seems. Every time a function is held that appears to favour one candidate over the other, the camp of his competitor(s) starts complaining. The issue is highlighted especially in the case of the three main contestants for the Muslim seat: Faris Nabulsi, Ali Abu

Ragheb and Taher Masri. plex, Safeway, kept flashing Mr. Nabulsi, who has an his name on a digital sign that faces one of the most across-the-board support among voters, was apparently criticised over the weekend crowded traffic lights in west-ern Amman. What can a for tying his name so closely candidate do in this world of to former deputy Laith checks and balances or lack Shbeilat. Critics say that Mr. Nabulsi stands on his own as a principled and respected

A CHRISTIAN candidate for the Third District, who had, by luck or marriage, guaranteed a good number of votes from a particular Christian community, lost his fortune for a little bit of greed. Having got the earlier support, the candidate wanted more than Christian votes: he approached the Islamists in a bid to seek their backing as well. No details of a meeting he held with the Islamists were leaked, but the news of it being held was enough for that ethnic community to reverse its decision to support him. Initial reports now indicate that the voters have decided that they would rather

cast their lot with another candidate who can be more true to his principles (and

**DURING AN Islamic Action** Front public rally in the city of Zarqa last week, some youth driving past thought they were missing a party.

The group of young men,
having already visited a bar, decided to join the party and have some fun. There were three of them. The first two were caught at the entrance and kicked out. The third escaped the hands of the organisers and managed to create a few tremors among the religious crowd, until of course he was caught. As he was dragged out, everyone who came close to him hit him with a chair or whatever was close by, until the rapporteur of the raily asked them to stop. The order took no more than a few seconds to be observed. Where some



The site of the 'party' in Zarqa (Photo by Yousef Al Alian)

Elections

are disorganised, others are

THE JORDAN Times wanted to understand this week why Arabic dailies have so far avoided writing analytical pieces predicting the outcome of the elections in the different districts. It was not because their reporters were incapable of writing them, we thought: It must be something else. Our own experience in the Jordan Times may give an indication as to what might be the reason. As reports were published on the different districts in this newspaper, phone calls kept pouring in from candidates or their friends demanding to know why our reporters favoured some candidates over others. One candidate, aware that he had little chance to win, wanted his name to be mentioned anyway under an analysis on the "surprise element." Another, who also knew his chances were slim, wanted the paper to highlight his role as a "spoiler" for one of the frontrunners. A third, who had proposed himself as the candidate for the "silent majority" blasted the newspaper for its "lack of credibil-ity" even though he knew that his "majority" most probably falls within the percentage that did not register to vote. And yet another, who did not read English,

heard about one of our re-

ports and wanted "a sum-

mary over the phone," be-

cause he had no time to come

pick the newspaper up. And

most other callers said that

"media monopoly" by some of the candidates is what is

getting them into the reports.

The headache that reports

cause journalists could there-

fore be responsible for Ara-

bic papers refraining from

writing at all. What else can

the reason be?

NIMR AL Haj Salmah Al Assaf, an IAF candidate in the fifth district, is being "oppressed" by his hawkish colleagues Mohammad Abu Faris and Hammam Saiid who share the IAF ticket for that district with him. The two imposing personalities are trying to push him out of the race to guarantee themselves a place in Parliament. According to sources, Drs. Abu Faris and Saiid did not initially want Mr. Assaf to be included on the IAF list, and when they were forced to deal with it, they started working against him. They have common banners asking voters to stick with them, almost giving the impression that they are the only IAF candidates in that district. They have encroached on his "allocated" space in that district by attempting to contact voters who they were specifically told by the IAF leadership should be left to Mr. Assaf. The IAF, according to the sources, had asked the two hawks to concentrate their efforts on "Palestinian" voters and leave the tribal vote to Mr. Assaf, who is a scion of a large Jordanian clan. But they were caught later setting up contacts with the tribes. After all attempts to bring the two into line failed, the IAF took matters into its own hands. Dr. Ahmad Noufal, a highly respected leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, and Youssif Al Athem, another equally influential IAF personality, have placed ads in the newspaper calling on voters to attend a rally for Mr. Assaf. No mention was made of Drs. Abu Faris and Saiid "who seem to think that they are the solution," as one observer put it.

Nermeen Murad

# No unilateral peace treaty

(Continued from page 1)

The Washington Post reported Thursday Israel has opened secret negotiations with Syria and Jordan.

Early Friday editions of the newspaper quoted "well-informed sources" as saying Mr. Peres had met secretly with senior Jordanian officials in a bid to achieve a quick breakthrough to peace.

At the same time, Israeli and Syrian defence officials were said to have met in Europe in the last few days to discuss security arrangements if Israel withdrew from the occupied Golan Heights.

The Post quoted a senior Israeli official as cautioning against a quick breakthrough. Mr. Peres touched off a wave speculation Wednesday when he told Israel television. "remember the third of

Two Israeli ministers confirmed Friday Israel and Syria were secretly negotiating in a bid to reach a peace agree-

"Israel, like any sovereign country uses open and secret diplomacy," Housing Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer told

"The momentum has been maintained with Syria. It's no secret. Meetings are always taking palce" between representatives of both countries,

he said. But he refused to answer questions about a report in Thursday's newspapers that senior Israeli military officers had met their Syrian counterparts recently in a European capital.

The Hadashot newspaper said on Friday that Israeli Chief of Staff Ehud Barak led a delegation to talks with Sy-

rians in Cyprus recently. Both reports were denied, the first by Mr. Peres and the second by the defence

But Health Minister Chaim Ramon told Friday's Haaretz newspaper: "We are in permanent negotiations with the Syrians and the United States and Egypt are associated with that. The two countries pass on

messages," he explained. Israel had set two condi-tions, he said. "We want clarifications on security questions and the normalisation of relations betweeen the two countries.

"I cannot say any more. When we have reached agreement on this, we will outline the scope of an Israeli with-drawal from the Golan."

Syria Friday denied it was pursuing secret talks with Israel, saying that the only meetings held were those scheduled under the terms of bilateral peace talks in Washington.

politician who serves the in-

and does not need the sup-

port of an Islamist politician

who is supposed to have re-

tired from politics. But prop-

onents of Mr. Nabulsi say

that the alliance should be

seen in its human rights con-

text and not Islamist versus

liberal. Mr. Abu Ragheb, a

young energetic business-

man, did not escape criticism

either. The Businessmen

Association organised a

gathering for him with Jorda-

nian corporate moguls. Some

voters are upset that the asso-

ciation did not host any other

candidate in the district and

appeared to be sending a

message that Jordan's

businessmen are endorsing

the candidacy of Mr. Abu

Ragheb and nobody else's,

which, some of the participat-

ing businessmen say, is not

true. "If a member of the

association wanted to en-

dorse Mr. Abu Ragheb's can-

didacy he should have held

the function for him at his

home," an angry business-man said. Not that Mr. Abu

Ragheb would have been

saved if that had happened.

Because Mr. Masri, for

whom a businessman called

Riyadh Al Saifi hosted a

meeting with voters, was also

criticised for accepting Mr.

Saifi's support. Not only that,

some people were upset that

his family's business com-

terest of liberal leftist voters

secret contacts between Syria and Israel are false," a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official SANA news agency

"The only framework under which the Syrian and Israeli parties are conducting discussions tied to the peace process between is that of the bilateral negotiating sessions in Washington and the efforts of the two co-sponsors (the Un-

ited States and Russia)," he

Israeli media reported Friday Mr. Peres met secretly with His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday to discuss details of a future peace treaty.

Reports of the Nov. 2 meeting said it was somewhere on the southern Israeli-Jordanian frontier in the Gulf of Agaba. Spokesmen for Mr. Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin declined comment on

. the reports.

Israel radio said the purported discussions centred on for peace and economic coop-

The radio added, however: "Jordan will not take the plunge and sign a peace agreement before Israel reaches a similar agreement with Syria."

In Amman, officials said King Hussein had spent several days in Agaba recently, but they refused to confirm or deny a meeting with Mr. Peres.



Residents of Jerusalem's Old City pass by an Israeli borderguard searching a Palestinian

youth from Gaza, on his way to the mosque for the Friday noon prayer (AFP photo)

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[ علدًا من الأحل]

TOKYO (R) Japan's contentious current account surplus rose in September to a record \$63.71 billion for the six. months to September, but economists and officials are con-

vinced the tide will turn soon. There might have been a trend in the past that Japan's current account surplus continued to grow, but I have the impression that the trend has recently changed," a Finance Ministry official told reporters

Friday. The finance ministry said Japan's unadjusted current account surplus widened more than 10 per cent to \$13.31 billion in September from a surplus of \$12.06 billion a year earlier. It was \$7.23 billion in

August.
The September trade surplus widened to \$14.65 billion in September from \$13.49 billion a year earlier and \$8.97 billion in August, the ministry said The September current account surplus was well within the range predicted by private

billion and \$13.5 billion, unadjusted for seasonal sectors The surplus for the six month period a year ago was \$57.04 billion.

The trade surplus rose to \$70.77 billion in the six-month period from a revised \$65.45 billion a year ago.

"The strength of the surplus is quite breathtaking ...but it is probably in the last throes of the J-curve," said Chris Calderwood, economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities

Nonetheless, economists agreed that the strong yen will start whittling away at the surplus, if not this year then early next year.

In the so-called J-curve effect, the yen's rise initially boosts the dollar value of exports before it reduces volume, thereby pushing up the surplus even as the strong currency saps the price competitiveness of Japanese goods overseas.

Only later does the strong yen dampen export volume enough to reduce the dollar

value of exports as well In yen terms, Japan's sur-pluses are already falling.

The current account surplus fell 5.3 per cent to 1.40 trillion yen (\$12.9 billion) in September from a year earlier while the trade surplus dropped 6.8 per cent to 1.54 trillion yen (\$14.2 billion).

"There's no disputing there was a big adjustment underway in the third quarter (in terms of export and import volumes) and eventually that will feed through into the dollar num-Mr. Calderwood aid.

Economists said the strong yen had not only dampened export volume but increased the attractiveness of imports, and both trends were likely to

The dollar value of exports rose in September to \$32.53 billion from \$27.08 billion in August and \$30.84 billion a year earlier. Imports totalled \$17.88 billion in September against \$18.11 billion in Au-

gust and \$17.35 a year earlier.

and imports rising rapidly," said Nobuyuki Saji, economist at Nikko Research Centre. The fact that imports are rising even when the economy

remains slow shows just how attractive they are. The J-curve effect might continue to nudge the current. account and trade surpluses up through the end of calendar 1992, but that from around

January, both are likely to start to decline, Mr. Saji said. In an earlier Reuter report, economists said that hauling Japan out of its worst post-war recession hinges on how effectively manufacturers can shake up production and create new product lines to lure back iaded consumers.

But they warned that the survival of corporate Japan would not be easy in view of the present government's desire to stop charting a course for industry, and without Western products to copy.

"Companies are now choked up with excessive production

capacity of unwanted goods. which is delaying the recovery and adding to gloomy employment prospects." said Teruhiko Mano, advisor to the presi-

dent of Bank of Tokyo. The slump in consumer spending, a major factor behind the recession, is not due to lack of cash to spend, but rather because there is nothing attractive to buy, economists

"Recovery from the recession hinges on whether companies can take the initiative to shake up their products and either meet or create consumer needs," Mr. Mano said.

But many firms, particularly large ones, are at a loss about what to do now that imitating Western products is no longer sufficient.

"In the past several decades, Japanese firms have been struggling to catch up with Western enterprises," said Yasushi Okada, senior economist of Daiwa Institute of Research Ltd.

But now that they have

achieved, and in some instances even surpassed, the quality and production capacity of the West, they have lost direction, he said.

Restructuring of Japanese firms has so far focused on cutting non-essential costs, such as expensive dinners with clients or office equipment, instead of streamlining decadesold production lines, they said.

'All manufacturers are doing is lamenting the lack of consumer interest in unreasonably high-priced goods whose values don't live up to their price tags," Mr. Mano said. For the past few decades the

Japanese government has provided a basic scenario for domestic industries and given them detailed help so they could compete efficiently with Western industries.

But the new government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is trying to slowly disengage itself from that role, the economists said.

"What Japan's new government is trying to do is to let the

firms find their own targets by taking risks themselves through the removal of various government rules and regulations," said Mr. Okada of

The latest draft of a key advisory panel to the prime minister urged the removal, in principle, of all government regulations on business activity, while keeping certain rules in secto such as finance, securities and real estate.

The planned deregulation might create unemployment in areas previously protected by the government, the econom ists said.

Such industries have been cocooned by protection from international competition, and the economists said exposure to global market forces might lead to restructuring that could cost jobs.

"But, it could also provide new sources of demand, and if companies fail to cash in on the new demand, corporate managers have no choice but (to) actively lay off employees, as U.S. companies, do," Mr. Okada said.

He said firms must create new demand at their own risk rather than keeping old production lines.

Japan's unemployment rate rose to 2.6 per cent in September, the highest level in more than five years.

Meanwhile, consumer spending keeps dwindling. Sales at Japan's major department stores and supermarkets dropped 3.7 per cent in September from a year ago, marking the 16th consecutive month of year-on-year de-

### economists — between \$11.6 "In volume terms, exports Dollar expected to continue to strengthen against European currencies

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrili Lynch-Dubai

### Overview ·

Fundamental view: The dollar has rallied to the DM 1.70 level in response to a sharp narrowing of U.S.-German interest rate differentials. U.S. money market rates have risen sharply in recent days in response to firm economic data. The dollar should continue to strengthen against European currencies in coming quarters as interest rates in Europe decline further. The U.S. and Japan both appear content to let the dollar remain indefinitely in the 100-to-110 range of recent months. But upward pressure on the yen is likely to reemerge next year even if Japan's current account surplus narrows somewhat. We continue to look for the dollar to rise to DM 1.85 while falling to yen 95 over the next 12 months.

Technical view: The U.S. dollar index was up over 2.4 per cent for the month of October. This represented the second largest monthly gain of 1993 and came as a result of broad dollar strength versus the European currencies and the Japanese yen. By contrast, the greenback suffered month-tomonth declines against both the Australian and Canadian dollars. While long term momentum oscillators for the dollar are still upwardly biased, they are under pressure. This is best represented by the fact that, if the dollar index is unable to hold above the 93.60 area through the end of November, our primary long term momentum oscillator will turn down for the first time since its September 1992 low. That is the potential

The good news is that the dollar's oversold medium term oscillator has reversed to the upside versus not only the dollar index, but also versus each of the three major European currencies we regularly discuss as well as the Japanese yen. This would imply that the dollar index's July-October correction is either complete or virtually so. Since medium term rallies usually tend to last three months or more, this would suggest that the potential long term pressure will be alleviated.

From current levels, next resistance for the dollar index is indicated at this past summer's 95.80 high; a rally decisively through that level would allow for a challenge of 97.50-98.00. As for support, any near term correction that holds above 92.50 will likely be best interpreted as a normal reaction in a relative new uptrend. A penetration of that 92.50 level would allow for a full test of at least the October low (91.76) and perhaps the September low (90.29).

### Deutschemark

Fundamental view: The dollar's surge to the DM 1.70 level in recent days reflects a sharp narrowing of U.S.-German short-term interest rate differentials. The U.S.-German gap in two-year rates, which has been closely correlated with the Deutschemark exchange rate in recent years, has narrowed to about 125 basis points versus 165 basis points a week ago and 230 basis points in early May. Mounting evidence that the U.S. economy is beginning to experience more robust growth our estimate is 4.2 per cent for the current quarter — has pushed money market rates up sharply in the U.S. in recent days as short-term interest rates in Germany have declined.

Relative business cycle and interest rate trends continue to point toward weaker European currencies in the year ahead. A 2% decline in German industrial production in September virtually erased a 2.2 per cent gain in the previous month,

confirming that Germany's economy continues to stagnate. Even if U.S. growth slows back to the 2.5-to-3.0 per cent range next year, as is widely expected, U.S. short-term interest rates should remain in a relatively narrow range next year while short-term rates in Germany fall to 4-4.5 per cent. We continue to look for the dollar to reach DM 1.80 and DM 1.85 over the next six and 12 months respectively.

Technical view: The Deutschemark dropped 3.2 per cent month-to-month versus the U.S. dollar. Long term momenturn has been weak since last October and is likely to remain so as long as the currency is unable to rally to and through the 1.60 DM/U.S.\$ level. Nonetheless, long term sentiment is viewed as overbought and is at levels not seen in 12 months. This last point, plus the fact that medium term momentum oscillators have peaked, implies that the pressure will be on the currency in coming weeks. Finally, the currency's decline through 1.693 level in recent days has done much to imply that any subsequent DM rally will likely be only a reaction within a new downtrend, rather than a full-blow test of the recent highs

All of this tends to confirm the view that the currency's dominant longer term downtrend is still in force. This implies that an eventual decline to 1.75 and beyond remains a reasonably strong probability. The mark/yen cross-rate has moved into the benchmark 62-64 trading range even as medium term momentum appears to be constructive. However, short term oscillators are weak, and a more severe test of support is likely before the medium term strength can reassert itself. The 66.50-67.00 level has proven to be good resistance, and a decisive rally back through that benchmark would do much to signal further strength toward important chart resistance at 70-72.

### Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The pound remained at 1.48 U.S.\$/1 but traded higher against the DM at DM/: 2.51 due to DM weakening versus the dollar. We continue to expect the pound to depreciate further against the dollar but strengthen against the DM, driven largely by projeted changes in short-term interest rate differentials. We for east a 45 basis point decline in three-month pound Eurorates over the next twelve months versus a 30 basis point rise in dollar rates and a 185 basis point fall in DM rates. Also underlying the pound's expected 12-month rise to DM/: 2.61 are our above-consensus forecast of 1994 U.K. growth at 3.2 per cent and our below-consensus projection of no German growth in 1994. Our 12-month forecast for the U.S.\$/: rate is 1.41.

Technical view: The British pound lost 1.0 per cent against the U.S. dollar last month. However, the relative strength properties for this currency appear to be somewhat stronger than those of some of the other European currencies. As with those currencies, medium term momentum has peaked, indicating a potential decline in coming weeks. Unlike those currencies, longer term oscillators appear to be bottoming. With longer term sentiment only neutral, this currency is

better positioned for a potential bottom than other European currencies. Thus, the anticipated upcoming medium term decline will have to be monitored closely. There is important long term chart support at 1.40-1.42 U.S.\$/: and important long term momentum support at \$1.36-\$1.37. The ability to hold at or above these levels in coming weeks could well improve the chance that a longer term bottom is forming. More medium term support exists near \$1.46. Important long term resistance exists near \$1.60, but there is interim

resistance in the 1.55-1.58 range. Versus the DM, sterling has been able to maintain its relative strength. However, medium term momentum for the cross-rate appears to be bottoming. While such a bottom may be delayed for a few weeks by the fact that short term oscillators are overbought, when they do bottom, they will join already upwardly biased long term indicators. Such a development would do much to support the currency's developing relative strength position. Nearby resistance exists at 2.50-2.53. Important support is at 2.43-2.44.

### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar has pulled back to the 107 level against the ven in recent days, even as it strengthened against European currencies. The yen is typically less sensitive to interest rate differentials that the European currencies and has reacted little to the sharp rise in U.S. short rates in recent days. Recent comments by Mr. Fred Bergsten, a Washingtonbased economist whose views are considered influential within the Clinton administration, may have helped boost the yen. Mr. Bergsten recommended that central banks take concerted action if the dollar rises to above the 110 yen level to help enforce a target range of 100-to-110 yen. He also noted that the yen will need to rise to the 95 level against the dollar to curtail Japan's current account surplus if Japan's economy remains weak. This view is consistent with our forecast for further ven strength in 1994. Recent Japanese economic data continue to point to a "double-dip" recession, with industrial production in October expected to fall a sharp 5.9 per cent. Although Japan's global trade surplus appears to have peaked

in July, its surplus against the U.S. has risen in recent months. We would not be surprised to see the U.S. seek further yen appreciation next year if Japan's external surplus remains high against the backdrop of a sluggish economy. We maintain our 6-and 12-month forecasts for the yen/USD rate of 100 and 95 respectively. Over the next twelve months, we look for the yen to trade in a broad range of 90-to-110 against the dollar.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 2.3 per cent against the U.S. dollar last month for its largest monthly decline since October of last year. Nonetheless, long term momentum for the yen did confirm the recent highs and remains downwardly biased. At the same time, long term sentiment is near oversold and is approaching levels last seen in early 1992 and again in early 1993 - near fairly important yen lows. We are still inclined to think that the currency has the potential to move lower, toward the 110-112 JY/U.S.\$ area. Regardless of whether that level is achieved, upcoming weakness will be viewed in the context of a still intact long term uptrend. The August high near 100 should continue to provide both chart and psychological resistance for the currency.

### S. Korea receives record shipbuilding orders

SEOUL (AFP) - South Korea received a record amount of overseas shipbuilding orders this year, doubling the volume garnered by the world's traditional largest shipbuilder, Japan. The Korea Shipbuilding Association (KSA) said the increase

was "mainly thanks to the strong yen."

South Korea's nine shippards had received a total of 8.7 million gross tonnes of overseas shipbuilding orders, worth more than \$7 billion, during the first 10 months through October.

The 8.7 million tonnes represented 6.5 times the amount of foreign orders South Korea had received during the same period last year. It also compared to 4.2 million tons of overseas orders'

Japan won during the first nine months to September.

The KSA said South Korean shipyards started having competitive edges over their Japanese competitors when the yen rose beyond 120 ven to the dollar.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This will be a good day to invest in yourself and to avoid starting new projects. Wind up details that you haven't finished on past activities and get your own house in order. Expect the unexpected. ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

You would be wise to stick to tried and proven friends now and to keep calm when some unpre-dictable acting persons are irritating to you. TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

If you are confronted by some problems that perplex you in the world of outside activity maintain your cool and look at them objectively today. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You certainly need to be reticent

about any new commitments of

any kind today or tonight and to handle matters in a manner best found to follow your ideas. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Consider well whatever your promises are and make sure that you carry through with them

in a truly conscientious fashion for right results. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Ali sorts of unusual conditions come into the open but be grateful for them since you are given the chance to know just where you

stand in public. VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your interest in getting much of your duties done today

range 64 "Peter Pan"

DOWN

5 Antolope 6 Tribes \*

may be a little difficult so go along with these in your stride and pause when necessary.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Pursue those pleasures and amusements today which are simple and not too costly and you will have an agreeable time which otherwise would not

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take some time out now to find out in an amicable manner just what you can do to make conditions at your own dwelling more harmonious for whomever is there.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some odd cor ditions can happen in your rela-tions with outside contacts today or tonight so keel on a , level keel and gain their respect.

2476

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You want to make some drastic changes in the way you add to your assets or income now but such requires much

further study and analysis. AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You are ambivalent to the best means by which you can gain your personal aims and you need to decide and then proceed cautiously to get them. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Consider well what your intimate longings are and consider your various options in order to make them a part of your life, then proceed slowly to do so.

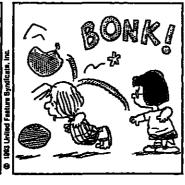
Amra Hotel

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### **Peanuts**

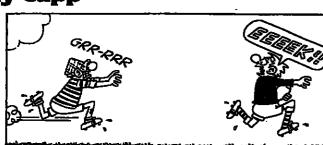








### Andy Capp



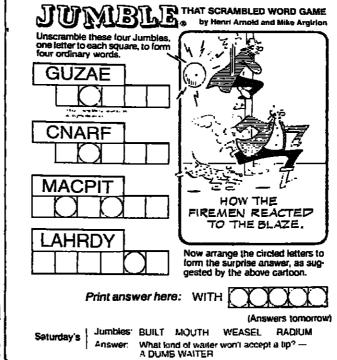


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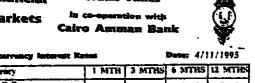
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MACOURAS BANK	3,294 3,440	4.200		4.760
MANN LIVERTHENS & FLINANCE BANK	10,499	6.500		
MANUAL PROFESSION INVESTMENT FOR PROPERTY	9,140	1.220		6.354
<b>1000 4300 100 COMPONENT PROPERTY</b>	115,160	1.796	1.400	1.786
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IDEDAN KEDICAL CORPORATION	3,450 22,235	3.570 0.470	3.630 5.450	3.656 0.376
MATIONAL STREET IMMETRY	25,239	3.150	5.280	5.200
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHERICAL INDUSTRIES	55,675	3.786	3,749	3-600
JORGAN ACCIMICAL INDUSTRIALS	5,975	2.300	2.780	2.300
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Carrency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTH	
U.S. Dellar	3.00	\$.45	5.43	3.62	
Sterling Pound	5.62	5.50	5.37	5.31	
Druische Mark	6.50	6.31	6.06	5.56	
Swim Franc	4.50	4.37	4.10	4.00	
French Franc	6.81	6.68	6.31	5.81	
Japaneter Yett	2.45	2.25	2.12	2.15	
European Currency Unit	7.25	7.12	6.87	6.37	

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Suiss Franc	3,4665	U.4685	
French Franc	0.1184	0.1190	
Japanese Yeu	0.6472	0.6504	
Dutch Galider	0.3681	0.3699	
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Catari Rival	0.7890	0.1918	
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LAV Brhant	. 0.1890	0.1918	
Caret Brackers	0.2825	0.3245	
Copiel Public	1,3385	3.3875	

# LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Friday.

YE

1.2928/38 1.6978/86 1.9050/60 1,5040/50 36.30/34 5,9025/25 1641.6/3.1 108,20/25 8,1354/75 7.3595/95 6,7593/93 \$1,4780/90 \$374,25/374.75

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

# BIS decision hurts Arab development

### DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) - A decision by the Bank of International Settlement (BIS) on lending acti-

vities worldwide is expected to complicate attempts by poor Arab states to heal their ailing economies, regional experts have said. The decision by BIS's Basel committee classified all Arab states, except Saudi Arabia, as

high-risk areas in loan opera-

tions, triggering protests from

many of them on the grounds they enjoyed a robust financial.

"It has become more difficult for Arab states to obtain loans from international mar-

kets because of that classification," the Kuwait -based Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said in a study to an Arab investment conference in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "This could affect development at a time when several Arab nations

have launched reforms." Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, was excluded from the classification because it is the fifth largest creditor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), delegates to the conference

It has maintained that rank though its reserves with the

Washington-based IMF has steadily shrunk as it was constantly forced to withdraw from the funds to shore up a persistent budget deficit caused by a fall in oil prices.

Official Arab figures showed the Saudi reserves, including gold, stood at \$11.6 billion at the end of 1991 compared with \$16.7 billion in 1989, \$22.6 billion in 1987 and \$25 billion

Gulf states have said they were taking measures to con-solidate their financial position to persuade Basel committee to revise its decision, which was enforced at the start of

The measures include reforms in the banking sector to ensure all banks meet a BIS floor of eight per cent for capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders equities

They also included boosting their reserves with IMF. Arab League figures showed the reserves of most members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) have steadily increased since BIS made its proposals in

and assets.

The UAE's reserves increased to \$5.3 billion in 1991 from \$4.4 billion in 1988 while those of Kuwait rose to \$3.4 billion from \$1.9 billion in the

Oman boosted them to \$1.66 billion from around \$1 billion, Bahrain to nearly \$1.5 billion from \$1.2 billion and Qatar to \$632.2 million from \$474.5 mil-

"Gulf states and other Arab oil producers will hardly be affected by the BIS decision as they rarely resort to foreign borrowing. Even if they seek loans from international markets, they will not find any difficulty because their financial position is still strong." said a delegate at the confer-

"Most other Arab League members will suffer as they are

in a bad need of funds to finance reforms at a time when aid and remittances from the Gulf have sharply fallen and their debt has steadily grown. There is no doubt, this will slow down reforms and affect domestic development."

According to the ACIG study, Arab states have heavily depended on loans to finance development in the past two decades. Between 1973 and 1990, Arabs borrowed \$116 billion while loans and other development funds totalled \$180 billion, of which \$47 billion came from oil-rich mem-

# **Kuwait central bank** offers help with mergers

central bank governor has said mergers were the best method of tackling excess banking capacity but he would not force banks to merge.

"The Central Bank of Kuwait will offer all help and advice possible to make merger operations succeed, as they are the best way of reorganising the banking and financial sector, uplifting its performance and advancing it," Sheikh Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah told a conference on bank mer-

"The Central Bank of Kuwait does not seek to impose mergers on units of the

banking and financial sector," he said. The decision to merge should arise from the conviction of the units that want to merge and with the approval of their general meetings. The central bank does not encourage mergers as an aim in themselves, but as a means of

achieving the public interest." Among banks most often mentioned as candidates for mergers are Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East and the two specialist banks, Kuwait Real Estate Bank and the Industrial

Bank of Kuwait. Sheikh Salem said his belief that mergers could be an im-

ment of the banking sector had increased since Iraq's 1990-91 occupation "which had a negative effect especially on the banking and financial sector."

He said mergers could achieve the following goals: - Creation of large banking units which enjoyed a solid

 Preserving the safety and stability of the banking sector by forming units with strong financial components.

financial base.

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### into streets to curb tax evasion ATHENS (AP) — Greece's from shopkeepers, as the law

Greek government sends inspectors

newly-elected Socialist government has intensified efforts to trim a budget deficit by chasing after tax offenders, but the attendant publicity has angered shopkeepers.

The Socialists, who beat out a conservative administration in Oct. 10 elections, scrapped a privatisation programme that was expected to infuse the 1992 budget with about \$1.5 billion.

So they are out to get some of the one trillion drachmas /\$4 billion) estimated to be lost annually through tax evasion. Sixty-seven teams of inspectors have been combing the

pers have been getting receipts

Club Restaurant

Dinner

CUISINE

unch

evaders. streets of the capital since last week, checking whether shop-

demands.

Shoppers face a fine of up to 5,000 drachmas (\$20) while offending shopkeepers may be fined up to 200,000 drachmas (\$800). The inspections are

due to spread countrywide. The finance ministry said Friday that 47 violations were recorded among 1,000 people checked Thursday.

"This is a percentage of 4.7 per cent," said Theodoros Triantafyllon, a spokesman for the Union of Trade Associations. "It shows that it is not the merchants who are the tax

Shopkeepers feel terrorised by the crackdown. A grocery store clerk chased a reporter

into the street to hand him his receipt left on the counter after he bought a cheese pie.

The crackdown on tax evasion has received wide publicity in the news media.

Merchants complained to finance undersecretary Dimitris Georgakopoulos that they were being singled out while other groups, like doctors and lawyers, were not being inspected.

"The damage is both ethical and material, because it creates a situation in which the market is frozen," Mr. Triantafyllou said in a telephone interview. "Similar checks have been carried out before, but not with this publicity."

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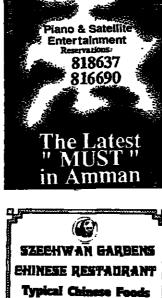
















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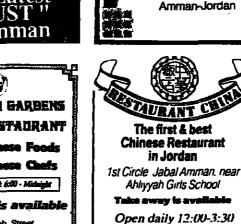
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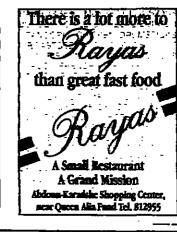
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# N. Korea may attack South in desperation — U.S. official

BASE, Alaska (Agencies) — North Korea has massed 70 per cent of its military force near South Korea and might launch a desperate conventional attack sparked by hunger and economic frustration in Pyongyang, a senior U.S. defence official said Friday.
"The North Koreans have

continued to increase their production of (military) equipment. They are more forward deployed and I think we may be entering a kind of danger zone here." said the official, flying home to Washington from Seoul with Defence Secretary Les Aspin.

"These guys (North Koreans) are starving" and may feel that "you can either starve or get killed in a war," said the official, warning that North Korea would certainly lose such a war but that rational

thinking might not carry the day in Pyongyang. The official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters that new political reality and a buildup of Northern forces on the border since 1990 have moved the United States and South Korea to reassess the military balance to determine if their forces should be streng-

Mr. Aspin held three days of

talks with officials in Japan and South Korea this week on fears that North Korea is carrying out a secret programme to

develop nuclear weapons.

A heavily armed North Korean military of 1.1 million troops faces 700,000 South Korean and 37,000 American troops on the troubled peninsula, where the Korean War ended in an uneasy armistice in

About 70 per cent of the North Korean force is now within striking range of South Korea, the official said.

There was no indication if or

when a North Korean attack might come, the official added, but a shattered economy and outside pressure on Pyongyang to halt its alleged quest for nuclear arms has suddenly changed the scenario on the peninsula. The official said there was no way of telling what North Korea, headed by 81-year-old supreme leader Kim Il-Sung, might be planning in the face of growing international isolation and a cutoff in military support from the former Soviet Union and

"We ought to think our way through what they might be thinking about and what might cause them to make a grave

miscalculation," the official told reporters.

He noted that North Korea's military, while heavily armed, was suffering from a lack of fuel and regular training.

But despite warnings from the United States that it could face international sanctions, North Korea has refused to open its nuclear facilities to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency, (IAEA) and resolve concerns that it is trying to build nuclear

'They have moved their forces further forward. It's now, I think, 70 per cent up right close to the border in the last three years or so," the official said Friday. "And they are saying that 1995 is the year that they are going to reunify the peninsula by force."

There is no question, I think, by any objective observer about how this thing (a war) would turn out," the official said.

Meanwhile, North Korea, apparently distraught over a N. resolution on its nuclear inspection issue, has called its Central Party Committee into an emergency session to discuss countermeasures, news reports said Friday.

It also reportedly commanded its troops to crop their hair short and increase combat

South Korean newspapers. quoting an unnamed senior government official, said that the Central Committee of the (Communist)، North's ruling Workers' Party will convene next week, about one month ahead of schedule.

The North Korean moves appear related to mounting nuclear tensions on the peninsula, the papers quoted the same official as saying.

The Central Committee, made up of about 140 delegates, is the supreme organisation of the Communist North's ruling party.

The Central Committee meeting was called after the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution Monday urging the North to comply with obligations and inspections under an international nuclear controls treaty which it joined in 1985, the papers said. North Korea denounced the resolution as encroaching on its sovereignty.

Upset by the U.N. resolution. North Korea cancelled a scheduled meeting this week with the South to protest what it called a belligerent statement by South Korean Defence Minister Kwon Yong-Hae.

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Japan LDP loses another defector

TOKYO (R) — Another member of Japan's main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has defected to the govern-ment in disgust at the LDP's stubborn resistance to ending political corruption, his aides said Friday. Lower house member Kenji Yamaoka's defection hit the party hard, coming just before the LDP was to enter crucial talks with Prime Minister Moribiro Hosokawa's coalition on a key political reform measure now stalled in parliament. Top negotiators from the two sides were due to meet later Friday in an attempt to break the logiam. Meanwhile top politician Ichiro Ozawa, one of the kingpins of Japan's ruling coalition, admitted Friday he took money from a building firm but said the sums were legal political donations, Kyodo News Agency reported. Earlier Friday, the daily Asahi Shimbun said Mr. Ozawa, now co-leader of Shinseito (the Japan Renewal Party), regularly took big unreported cash gifts from construction giant Kajima Corp., which is at the heart of a spreading payoff scandal. Commenting the report, Mr. Ozawa told reporters he thought the donations from Kajima were legal, Kyodo said. Asahi quoted sources close to Shinji Kiyoyama. senior vice president of Kajima, as saying he handed Mr. Ozawa gifts of five million yen (\$46,000) every six months for several years. "The (Asahi) report is a curious one. They (the Kajima funds) were legal donations," Kyodo quoted Mr. Ozawa as saying.

### U.S. presses China on human rights

MANILA (AFP) - The U.S. State Department warned China Friday to improve its human rights record swiftly or forfeit its most favoured nation (MFN) trading status next year despite growing high-level contacts. Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said in a video conference with Asian capitals that a planned meeting in Seattle this month between presidents Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin was "a very important event." He said talks at lower levels so far had produced no "substantive progress" although the "tone of our relationship" has "somewhat improved." "We must have rapid, early progress on human rights in order to preserve MFN next spring," Mr. Lord said as he fielded questions from Asian officials, experts and journalists in a live

### U.S. approves \$22b to fight crime

WASHINGTON (R) - The Senate has approved \$22 billion in funds to fight violent crime by hiring 100,000 more police officers and building more prisons. The money was part of an amendment added to a sweeping anti-crime bill being considered by the Senate. The amendment was drafted by Senator Robert Byrd, a West Virginia Democrat, with Republican support. I consider the crime problem a major crisis that is getting worse and worse every day," Sen. Byrd said before the 94-4 vote. The money would come from a trust fund using money saved from a reduction in federal employees expected through a government reorganisation plan. Earlier, the House Judiciary Committee passed a separate bill to set a five-day national waiting period for handgun sales. The legislation, known as the Brady Bill for former White House Press Secretary James Brady, may be voted on in the full House of Representatives next week. The Senate is also expected to take it up this month. Mr. Brady was shot and crippled during the 1981 assassination attempt against President Ronald

### 'Ukraine warheads in alarming state'

MOSCOW (R) - Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said Friday Moscow had received extremely alarming information from Ukraine about the state of nuclear warheads in the republic, ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Mr. Kozyrev told TASS that the warheads had deteriorated so badly it could lead to a tragedy "much worse than Chernobyl." Mr. Kozyrev spoke to TASS before he flew to the Ukrainian city of Odessa for talks about the nuclear warheads, which Kiev is refusing to ship to Russia as agreed until it is paid compensation. "Literally in the last few hours' we have been receiving extremely alarming information from Ukrainian representatives themselves about the technical state of a number of rockets, Kozyrev said, TASS reported. "The technical state of some of the warheads could lead to a tragedy much worse than Chernobyl," the minister underlined. Ukraine has agreed to dismantle its nuclear arsenal but is resisting Western pressure to hand the warheads to Russia for destruction.

### Kohl hits back at critics of EC union

BONN (AFP) - Chancellor Helmut Kohl lashed out Friday at Germans who bitterly criticised European union this week, including from his own coalition, saying he did not want to see the goal turn into just "an improved free-trade zone." "We need Europe, especially us Germans," Mr. Kohl said in a statement to the Bundesrat, or upper house of parliament, addressed to "those who have had enough of Europe." He was aiming at Edmund Stoiber, head of the Christian Socialist Union (CSU), the Bavarian branch of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU). Mr. Stoiber defied Mr. Kohl Tuesday by calling for a clean break fro the united Europe policies Germany has pursued since the days of post-war Chancellor Konrad Adenauer (1949-1963). "We no longer want a federal Europe," Mr. Stoiber said. His remarks, an implicit attack on the central plank of Mr. Kohl's policies since he took office in 1982, came a day after the Maastricht Treaty went into force, transforming the 12-nation European Community (EC) into a European union.

### **ANC** army announces big peace drive in

townships

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) -The African National Congress (ANC) army Friday announced a major drive for peace in black townships, in-cluding the creation of self-protection units and joint patrols with police and the Zulubased Inkatha Freedom Party

Oupa Monareng, regional commissar of Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear Of The Nation. or MK), told a news conference that MK planned to play a key role in curbing violence and creating a climate for free political activity in black areas. He said the regional MK command had called a consultative conference this

weekend with its allies, including the South African Communist Party and the ANC youth and women's leagues, to draw up a joint strategy to combat violence. The main focus would be on

the battleground belt of townships east of here, centred on Tokoza and Katlehong, where an average six to seven people a day are being killed in fierce political fighting, Mr. Monareng said.

Among the strategies proposed by MK were the transformation of current singleparty self-defence units into multi-party self-protection units as prescribed by the 1991 national peace accord signed by most major parties.
Unlike the self-defence un-

its, which are blamed for fanning rather than curbing violence, the protection units would be recognised by all parties, licensed, properly equipped and fully monitored. Mr. Monareng said.

MK also planned to encour-

age community policing and gear itself for involvement in a proposed national peacekeeping force to be formed ahead of the country's first all-race elections next April, he added.
The ANC's deputy regional

secretary, Obed Bapela, said MK was ready to take part in joint patrols in the troubled areas with IFP and any unit of the police other than the Internal Stability Unit (ISU) - the riot squad.

Earlier this week, the ANC distanced itself from a police statement announcing the joint patrols, but Mr. Bapela said this applied only to patrols with the ISU, which the orga-nisation claims is behind the violence.

He stressed, however, that further discussion on the commanding and training of the units was essential. Mr. Bapela reiterated an

ANC call for the withdrawal of the ISU from East Rand townships, saying it was a "discredited force.

Police deny that the ISU is fuelling the violence and warns against large scale bloodletting if the unit is withdrawn.

The police blames the violence on fierce rivalry between IFP and ANC.

Nceba Soyaya, an ANC offi-cial from Tokoza, told the press conference that Tokoza residents would launch a "programme of action!" Monday to force out the ISU.

The programme would include a consumer boycott of the nearby white towns of Germiston and Alberton.

### Bosnia troops loot Vares, block food convoy

SARAJEVO (Agencies) -Bosnian army troops blocked a U.N. food convoy to refugees from the captured Croat pocket of Vares after undisciplined troops from this mainly Muslim force went on a locting spree in the beleaguered town, U.N. military and aid officials said Friday.

At one point Thursday local Bosnian army commanders asked U.N. Protection Force troops to help them control the situation but the request was turned down since it was outside the forces' mandate, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Several hundred troops from the army's Seventh Brigade Thursday blocked a U.N. convoy carrying food supplies to 620 refugees, including around 100 Bosnian Croats, sheitering at the camp of Swedish U.N. troops a few kilometres north-of Vares.

The convoy was only allowed through after the arrival of French U.N. troops sent from Sarajevo.

Troops from the Seventh Brigade began looting televi-

sions and audio equipment from deserted homes after seizing Vares Wednesday, said Lt-Col. Bill Aikman, spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force here.

We have received reports of systematic looting in the sense of televisions, stereos, you name it, being moved out," Col. Aikman said. "The second Corps coming

from the north advised UN-PROFOR forces in the area in the afternoon that they were concerned about the situation in the town of Vares and asked them to help resolve the situa-

"We are not in the business of trying to control corps of armies of any party in the conflict, so we could not do that," Col. Aikman said.

been told a battalion of Bosnian police was being sent to the area Friday to help restore

(UNHCR) here, said when

the situation. Ray Wilkinson, spokesman for the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Seventh Brigade troops entered the town the "situation began to change and deteriorate virtually immediately.

"The UNHCR sent an emergency food convoy to Nordbat (Scandinavian U.N. Battalion) headquarters to feed the 620 people sheltering

"It was stopped by several hundred soldiers of the Seventh Brigade clustered around one check-point.

"They simply refused to allow it forward," he said, until French U.N. reinforcements Sarajevo's southern front

lines were hit by low-level but almost constant small arms, heavy machine gun and mortar fire overnight. Residents said the shooting

pated as a rainy, misty dawn broke in the Bosnian capital. Croatian radio said Croatian army positions behind the Adriatic coastal town of Biograd came under Serb fire, while the town itself was hit by

three artillery shells. In Belgrade, Serbian Presi-

dent Slobodan Milosevic has declared war on his former extreme rightwing ally, the radical party of Vojislav Seselj, arresting 18 party militants on charges of terrorism, murder and banditry ahead of snap

elections next month.

The militants, all members of the party's paramilitary formations, were arrested late Thursday in Belgrade and four provincial cities, Belgrade Television reported quoting a communique from the Interior

It is the first time that Serbian authorities have engaged in a head-on confrontation with Seselj's militia, which numbers around 2,000 armed men according to foreign experts and nearly 8,000, accord-

With early elections for the Serbian parliament called for Dec. 20, Mr. Milosevic's Serbian Socialist Party (ex-Communist) spectacularly split with Seselj after a year's coalition, which had allowed the Socialists to govern.

## Talks with Kashmir rebels resume amid curfews

SRINAGAR, India (Agencies) — A new negotiator resumed talks Friday with diehard Muslim guerrillas entrenched in the besieged Hazratbal Mosque as riot police clamped a strict curfew and broke up sporadic Kashmiri street pro-

Mehmood Ur Rehman, a senior Kashmir administration official, held three rounds of talks with rebel leaders inside the lakeside mosque in an effort to end the impasse, which entered its 21st day, but he made no headway, the

police said. Mr. Rehman replaced Wajahat Habibullah, who was critically injured Thursday when his car collided with an army. truck. He was hospitalised in a coma in a setback to the efforts for a settlement.

Mr. Habibullah had been heading the tortuous negotiations with the 50 armed militants to persuade them to surrender and release 60 to 70 civilians who also have been trapped in the mosque since

the night of Oct. 15. Kashmir Police Chief Manwithin the "bounds of law."

ohear Nath Sabharwal told reporters that the guerrillas were still rigidly holding out, blocking a settlement that the Indian government insists should be

He refused to disclose details citing "the delicate nature of the negotiations," which re-sumed after a day's standstill. The rebels have demanded that the army lift the siege of Hazratbal and also insisted on safe passage. Both conditions

As the standoff continued, riot police using bamboo staves and tear gas scattered several hundred Kashmiri Muslim demonstrators who gathered on the streets and attempted to set off for Hazratbal, witnesses

Some 400 worshippers shouting "we want freedom" and 'God is great" emerged from a mosque in the Sonawar area after the weekly Friday prayers and were dispersed. Similar demonstrations were

staged in four other neighbourhoods and scattered with minimum use of force, and no major violence was reported, senior superintendent of police Ram Lubhaya said.

A strict curfew was clamped on and paramilitary troops deployed in strength in Srinagar.

A series of Indian regional elections begin Saturday that could prove critical for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the high ambitions of the opposition Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Four of the five states which vote for new assemblies over the next three weeks were ruled by the BJP until Mr. Rao dismissed their governments and put them under central rule after Hindu extremists tore down a northern mosque last December.

The Hindu nationalists may have to win them all back and take Delhi, which votes Saturday for its first ever assembly. to maintain the momentum that has taken the BJP from the political fringes to centre stage in less than decade.

### have been rejected by the gov-Malibu fire declared under control; 2 more die

MALIBU, California (R) — Weary firefighters declared the wildfires that roared through Malibu's celebrity enclaves under control early Friday as the death toll from the blazes

rose to three. Movie stars and other residents returned to scenes of devastation in their exclusive enclave.

The charred bodies of two people were found in the burned-out remains of a car late Thursday, the bodies so badly burned it was impossible even to identify their sex, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's spokesman said.

Spokesman Rich Erickson said the bodies were discovered by a sheriff's helicopter pilot surveying the scene of destruction. "He saw the burned-out car and then realised there were two bodies in

it," the spokesman said. "The vehicle was so badly burned it was impossible to tell the make of the car or the sex of the people in it," he said.

The grim discovery brought the number of victims from the Malibu blaze — a replay of the firestorms that plagued southem California last week -- to

British movie director and screen writer Duncan Gibbins, 41, died late Wednesday after suffering burns over 95 per cent of his body while trying to

save his cat. The cat survived the fires and was being cared for at an animal centre.

A Los Angeles county fire spokesman said the fire — the latest of 18 blazes - was 100 per cent contained early Friday, and that the few spot fires that remained were well away from inhabited areas.

Authorities also said the deadly blaze was the work of an arsonist. Los Angeles County Fire Department investigator Jerry Beck said either a match or a cigarette lighter had been used to ignite

A \$250,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest of the arsonist. The fire destroyed 350 homes in Malibu and left at least 1,000 people homeless.

More than 120 people, about half of them firefighters, were injured in the firestorm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced it would open an

office in Malibu to deal with

applications for help. Four other FEMA centres

were opened in the last week in southern California to handle claims from a series of firestorms that have devastated the In all, more than 1,000

homes have been destroyed, thousands have been made homeless and property damage has been estimated at \$1 billion in five southern California counties since Oct. 26, making it one of the worst disasters in California's history. Weary fire crew were aided

cooler, calmer weather Thursday, conditions expected continue into next week. Authorities said the cooler weather, coupled with higher humidity, would allow firefighters to snuff out the remaining

hot spots. Gibbins, 41, was an up-andcoming Hollywood figure whose credits included the films Fire With Fire and Eve Of Destruction. Authorities said Gibbin's

death was being treated as a homicide, meaning that murder charges could be filed if the person who set the Malibu fire was caught. Residents trickled back to

survey the destruction Thursday, some standing dazed and tearful in the wreckage of their

"Things are getting under control, but the damage is done," said Fire Department spokesman Steve Ruda. The \$4 million carbon ca-

nyon mansion actor Sean Penn

once shared with ex-wife Madonna lay in smouldering "We got lucky and Sean didn't, and that's too bad," said his neighbour, actor Ed Harris, who returned to his estate Thursday to find it vir-

tually unscathed.

house with his girlfriend, Robin Wright, and her children from a previous marriage. Actress Ali McGraw's expensive hillside home was also destroyed and she issued a statement thanking firefighters for their extraordinary efforts in saving so many people's

Penn had been living in the

As fires licked the edges of his Serra Retreat ranch, toughguy actor Charles Bronson rushed to save his three dogs but left his pet goose behind to fend for itself in his swimming pool. It survived along with his



Actress Ali McGraw attempts to locate mementhe ashes of her house which was

Bruce Willis and Demi

ed by Richard Gere, Mel Gib-

son, Dick Van Dyke and Amy

destroyed when wildfire whipped through Maii-bu in California (AFP photo) Madigan, but their houses suf-

Moore's house escaped unscathed after it was ringed by Actor Gary Busey defied the fire, but their new black Prosche was coated with ash. survived intact. Flames raced by homes own-

fires and stayed put. His home

Zsa Zsa Gabor offered her

stables to house other celebri-

ties' houses left homeless. "If

the animals need me, I'll be fered no major damage. there," she said.

Malibu showed its gratitude to a 5,000-strong army of firefighters. Many were treated to free meals at three-star restaurants. A chiropractor to the stars offered back rubs without

### Mother convicted of killing track star

PHILADELPHIA (R) - A 43-year-old woman was cost victed of murdering her 172 year-old daughter, a nationally ranked track star. The jury convicted the woman, Vivia convicted the woman, Vivian King, of third-degree murder a conviction that could send Mrs. King to prison for a maximum of 20 years. The province secution contended that Mrs. King shot her daughter, high school senior Shilic Turner, in a drunken rage that resulted a drunken rage that resulted from arguments over the hours her daughter kept and the friends she had. Prosecutors had sought a first-degree mur der conviction that would have carried the death penalty. The girl's body was found in the city's sprawling Fairmount Park on Feb. 20, a month after Mrs. King reported her daughter missing. She was shot five times and covered with leaves. twigs and a piece of linoleum. Mrs. King was a suspect almost from the first day of the investigation into the killing of the teenager, who had been a star on the William Penh High School track team. Mrs. King went to police on March & to ask if she were a target of their investigation and underwent 10 hours of questioning that led to a confession. But the interview was not tape recorded and the defence contended that the confession was coerced. Defence lawyers. argued the killing was the result of a robbery. The defence in the state's case, chief among them that the murder weapon and the defendant's guns were of different calibers. The murder weapon was no er found;

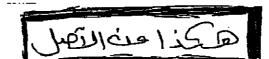
### Picasso collection 크레인 등 sells for \$32m

NEW YORK (R) — Sotheby's -. sold an entire private collect. tion of 88 works by Picasso for \$32 million, ending two days of :.. auctions of impressionist and ... modern art on a high note. In a ... night that made up in enthu-. ... siasm what it lacked in high - . . drama, the auction house man-, aged to raise \$1 million more,... than the presale high estimate, for the sale. The success of the Picasso sale and two days of -1 solid sales of impressionist and ... modern art means that -... Sotheby's has now earned \$93 : million, the highest total in its,..., hiannual auctions since the att market collapsed in the spring. of 1991. The top price at the Picasso auction was \$4.4 million, paid by a private American buyer for a large 1932 painting entitled "Femmes Et Enfants Au Bord De La Mer.' Seven of the other top 10 prices topped \$1 million. A full-length preparatory sketch for the painting "L'Acteur" sold for \$1.02 million, and a death-mask crayon self-portrait, made shortly before the artist died, sold for almost \$500,000 - five times the presale high estimate. Officials atthe auction house said they were delighted by the results of: the sale, saying it proved the market was strong enough to absorb all the Picassos offered for sale without flinching. "I, think this is a very healthy. sign," said David Nash, director of the Impressionist and Modern Art Department of Sotheby's International.

### Sixties hit closes after loss-making

LONDON (AP) - Hair, the sixties hit musical, is to close on Nov. 20 after a two-month, loss-making run, the Old Vic Theatre announced Thursday. The 26 members of the cast. and 11 musicians agreed two-weeks ago to take a 33 per centpay cut in an attempt to stave. off closure. "The company's generosity gave us a stay of execution but sadly business shows no sign of building beyond November, and the producer David Mirvish has decided reluctantly to close the show," said executive producer Andrew Leigh. Even though three-quarters of the seats. were sold the updated produc-tion of the 1968 peace and love; classic was losing £15,000 (\$22,500) a week when the pay cut was agreed. The £1.5 million (\$2.25 million) production opened Sept. 14 with a cast including American actor Paul Hipp (Buddy), Australian bearthrob Felice Arena (from the TV soap Neighbours), and pop singers Sinitta and Pepsi Lawrie Demacque. John Barrowman, born in Scotland but ... raised in the United States. plays the pivotal role of the doomed Claude. The show was co-produced by Mirvish, the Canadian owner of the 970-seat Old Vic theatre with his brother, Ed, and real-estate tycoon Abe Hirschfeld, who made waves in New York earlier this year when he attempted to buy the bankrupt New





## enna takes provisional pole for Australian GP

-razilian Ayrton Senna proaced his most stunning qualying performance of the year riday by breaking the lap cord for the Adelaide Street ircuit to take the provisional ole position for Sunday's Auralian Grand Prix,

Senna, in a McLaren, folwed up his emphatic victory the Japanese Grand Prix 12 ays earlier by dominating the es nening qualifying session.

He clocked a best time of ae minute and 13.371 seconds take four-tenths of a second if the previous record set by ritain's Nigel Mansell in a 'idiams in 1992.

Senna's old rival, Frenchan Alain Prost in a Williams, as second fastest in 1:13.807 ith a flying lap late in the

But it was a disappointment or Prost, taking part in his 99th and final Grand Prix efore retirement. He had een quicker during the mornng free session but was unable ) find a clear lap to improve is time in the afternoon. German Michael Schu-

racher was third fastest in a enetton and Finland's Mika lakkinen fourth after another npressive showing in the cond McLaren.

Austrian Gerhard Berger as fifth in a Ferrari with riton Damon Hill sixth in the cond Williams, after an pening day in which he had iled to come to terms with e demands of the 3.780-km reet Circuit.

The session began slowly ith very few cars venturing it onto the circuit because of I from a preceding kart race. Berger, who crashed heavily the chicane in the morning ithout suffering any injuries, as among the quickest early

But once Senna went out for



Ayrton Senna of Brazil and his girlfriend, Adriani, watch a video during his farewell barbecue on the eve of the qualifying rounds for the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide (AFP photo)

the first time midway through the hour, he took command. Under a blue sky and in dry conditions, the Brazilian was quickly down into the 1:14's and on top of the times, gradually trimming his best until

he broke the track record. Prost and Schumacher were unable to cut their times down to stay in contention until very

late in the session. Senna's opening day achievement has given him a good opportunity of ending Williams' record-equalling run of 15 successive pole positions in a single season. The British however, still hope to extend their run to a record 16th pole and a total of 25 in succession

stretching back to July 1982. Senna was the last non-Williams driver to take the pole for a Grand Prix - at the Canadian race in Montreal. He has started from the pole 61 times in his career.

"It was a tremendous lap, a pretty special one. Had there been no traffic, I could have done better," he said. "We also had a problem

with the radio. I was wonder-

because of low fuel... later I discovered that my radio button was stuck, so the pits could not talk back to me. The result though was that I could not concentrate in the usual way. So I could not improve my

Prost said: "I had some problems with the set-up of the car. No problems with the engine, but the chassis is not so good."

Schumacher was satisfied, "but I am suprised at the gaps between first and third. It is much bigger than I expected."

Hakkinen said: "I am a little disappointed. On my second set of tyres. I was struggling for balance... maybe I have been trying a bit too hard."

Hill was disappointed not to be any further forward than the third row of the provisional grid and said: "It is bound to be a handicap not knowing this place... The opposition are catching us up. I have to work

Fellow Briton Derek Warwick was unable to run in his footwork Friday owing to illness. He had fluv symptoms and a high temperature in the morning and was ordered to

The team prepared a car for Brazilian Christian Fittipaldi but will wait until Saturday before making a decision on who would drive it, giving Warwick a chance to recover.

Eddie Irvine, sixth on his debut for the Jordan team in Japan, was unable to repeat his sensational form and finished 22nd of the 23 cars at the end

of the session. As Formula One world champion Alain Prost wraps up his 13-year career in Adelaide Sunday, a new breed of speedy young drivers is set to bolt out from under the 37vear-old Frenchman's shadow.

# Galatasaray eliminates Man. United

Turkey celebrated its greatest soccer triumph Thursday, six fans of Manchester United remained locked in an Istanbul jail and the team's stars accused the Turkish police of brutality.

Thousands of Galatasaray supporters reveled in scenes of wild jubilation after their team's triumph Wednesday over the English giants in the Champions Cup, Europe's most prestigious soscer tournament.

Galatasaray held United to a goal-less tie at home after a 3-3 result in Manchester that put the Turks through to the third round on the strength of scoring more goals on the road. Turkish Prime Minister Tan-

su Ciller joined in the postmatch celebrations. "We were unable to join the European Community but did join the first eight in the European Cups," she said. "I am

proud." The celebrations were marred by at least two deaths. In the Mediterranean town of Mersin, a woman was shot dead accidentally when someone fired in the air in jubilation. In Izmit, east of Istanbul, an unidentified man was

he ran over the tracks in wild In Ankara, a group demonstrated in front of the British embassy, shouting slogans in favour of Galatasaray and

crushed to death by a train as

against Manchester United. While the Turks celebrated, the English team and supporters returned home, either defeated or deported, and some saying they were beaten by the

Turkish police.

without even seeing the game following trouble at a hotel in Istanbul the morning before.

Six others stayed behind, remaining in Bayrampasa Prison to face charges of causing damage. The six, aged between 27 and 39, also face charges of drunkenness and disorderly conduct. It could be at least a month before their cases come to court.

the game.

There were no reports of crowd violence after the game but some of the United players said they were assaulted by police as they left the field.

French striker Eric Cantona, who was shown the red card by. Swiss referee Kurt Roethhisberger for making an offensive comment as they walked off, said he was hit on the back of the head by a policeman.

Bryan Robson, former captain of England, was cut on the hand by a policeman's shield when he came to the Frenchman's defence. Robson required two stitches in his hand. "It's a gret scandal, "Canto-

na was quoted as saying in

British newspapers Thursday. "A policeman got hold of his (Cantona's) arm and punched him in the back," Robson said. "I went to get a grip on the policeman's arm and another one hit me with his shield on the arm."

United manager Alex Ferguson said the incident was captured on film. He said the team would consider filing a formal protest with UEFA, but he acknowledged the incidents had nothing to do with the team's elimination.

Reports that Eric Cantona had accused top European referees of taking bribes were "a complete fabrication," Ferguson said Friday.

Cantona was at the centre of a controversy after an article appeared in a French sports

L'Equipe quoted Cantona as saying: "I am certain that referees have been bought in the European Cup and I ask myself whether Mr. Rothlisberger had not also been bought Wednesday night."

But Ferguson insisted that the French striker could not have made the comments in the aftermath of the goalless

"As far as I am concerned, it is a complete fabrication. Eric could not have spoken to anyone after the game because he was in the dressing room all the

"No one was allowed in and he certainly did not speak to any journalists," the United manager said.

Some 40,000 noisy Galatasaray fans int he Ali Sami Yen Stadium celebrated the greatest night in the club's history as it eliminated one of the tournament favourites. Among ther spectators was Mrs. Ciller.

After Swiss referee Roethlisberger had blown the final whistle, thousands of Turkish fans jumped up and down and poured onto the field to embrace Galatasaray players.

There were different scenes among the Manchester United players and Cantona was shown the red card after a comment to the referee as they left the field.

The Frenchman also was involved in an on-field flareup during the game when he clashed with a Galatasaray substitute who would not let him have the ball after it had rolled off the field, some 10 players became involved in pushing and shoving each

ATHENS (R) — Olympiakos defender George Amanatides rifled a shot into his own goal

helping to send Spain's Tener-

ife into the third round of the

It was bad luck for Olym-

piakos, who beat Tenerife 4-3.

but it was the Spaniards who

advanced on the 5-5 aggregate

because of the away goals rule.

Rome team's Danish striker

Bent Christiansen who scored

three goals but still finished up

13th, 24th and 84th minutes

Christiansen struck in the

a loser.

plus W.C.

It was also tough on the

UEFA Cup Thursday.

Olympiakos own goal

stops UEFA advance

other before the game re-

sumed. The Turks restricted the English titlist and rungway stand-

ings leader this season to just one chance in the chille game. In the 36th minute, former England captain Reason sent a long pass through to Rytan Giggs and the teenage Welsh winger shot across 11/2 face of

the goal. Galatasaray should have been ahead by then but was twice denied by United's acrobatic Danish gratie, Peter Schmeichel.

In the 32nd minute, Schmeichel save one-handed from Hakan. And, only seconds later, the tall Galatasaray striker had only the Danish goalie to beat from five metres but Schmeichel somehow blocked the shot with a reflex-action save.

United looked nothing like the team that currently leads the English standings by 11 points. Robson, Giggs and Cantona made frequent mistakes and never put pressure on the Galatasaray defence.

Ferguson had gambled by leaving Welsh striker Mark Hughes off the team and the lineup appeared lightweight in attack.

Now Galatasaray can look forward to reaching he roundrobin third stage of the competition which generates big

money in attendances as well as TV coverage. That's exactly what United, which became the first English

club to win the trophy in 1969, was aiming for.

In the last four seasons, United has won the Football Association Cup, the European Cup Winners Cup, the English League Cup and the English League.

For Ferguson, the Champions Cup should have been

with teammate Vassilis Ion-

nides scoring on the hour. Tenerife fought back with

goals from Felipe Ninambres.

with a fine 25 metre drive, and

a Sebastian Chano penalty one

minute into the second half.

Then any hope Olympiakos

had of advancing was shattered

in the 29th minute when Ama-

natides miscalculated a long

pass and sent the ball sailing

Olympiakos fought back de-

sperately, but even Christian-

sen's third goal was not

into this own goal.

enough.

### million 3reeders' Cup races to pay \$10

RCADIA, California (R) ighty-two horses, 18 of them om Europe, will run Saturay for \$10 million in purses oread across seven races on ne biggest day in thoroughred borse racing, the Breed-

rs' Cup. While five of last year's 3reeders' Cup champions will ne competing, not only for cup itles but also for possible Eclipse Awards for yearlong supremacy in their divisions and for consideration as Horse of the Year, the biggest star

here is Dehere The brawny two-year-old with the crooked white blaze has set the racing world aflutter and is the prohibitive avounte in the

Dehere, already being de-

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South

you hold: •Q542 °AQ °KQ54 ◆A106

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

A.—With at least 33 points and no more than 35 in the combined hold-

ing, we have no serious objection to

a leap to six no trump. However, you have a ruffing value and partner

night have one as well, so the hand

could play better in a 4-4 fit if one exists. We would start matters off by bidding two clubs, requesting

partner to show a four-card major.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

(♠AJ104 ∇A7652 ◊7 ♠K87

<sup>1(</sup>What do you bid now? "A.—Partner's cue-bid agrees

tearts as trumps and is forcing. You thave a poor trump suit and almost

ycalf your values are in spades. You

wan make partner aware of both hese features by rebidding two no

172.3—Neither vulnerable, as South

A .-- Your side has the balance of

(voower, but you really don't want to

dilouble the opponents at a low-level

vimajor-suit contract. To make it more difficult for them to find a fit, p bid one no trump. That steals the tione-level from them while giving

Wpartner an accurate picture of the

in he bidding has proceeded:
(worth East South West
Dbl ?

SWhat action do you take?

g strength of your hand.

tThe bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
St 7 1 2 2 2 Pass

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

·juvenile race.

scribed as possibly the next Secretariat, the next Devil's Bag, the next Arazi, has been the favourite in all six of his

He was also fast. His Hopeful was the second fastest in history, right behind triple crown winner Affirmed's in

Still, could a two-year-old, even one as accomplished as Dehere, be named Horse of the Year? Secretariat set the precedent when he was named

Horse of the Year as a twovear-old in 1972. The cup races have pro-

ception in 1984. rout detending breeders Cup champions will try to

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you

AQ1094 7K983 772 #AJ5
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass Pass 1 #
Pass 1 7

What action do you take?

A.—The bidding has developed perfectly for you. You have the opportunity to tell partner that you have a near opening bid with at least four cards in each major. Double for the best four cards in each major.

ble, for takeout of course, since

Q.5-As South, vulnerable, you

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass

A .-- With a balanced minimum

opening bid and no support for partner's suit, the normal rebid is

one no trump. We see no reason to

Q.6-As South, vulnerable, you

hold: **•A83** ∇95 CKJ98 **•AJ107** 

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ° Pass 1 • Pass

A.—The same problem as before

except that the major suits have

been switched. You don't want to

bid no trump without a stopper in the unbid major and to bid a new suit would tend to suggest a more unbalanced hand. Raise to two

spades despite the fact you have only three-card support.

What do you bid now?

depart from accepted principle.

∇A83 ^KJ98 •AJ107

partner has not yet bid.

What do you bid now?

**495** 

of 1992 - Thirty Slews in the sprint, Paseana in the distaff. Lure in the mile, and Fraise in

the turf. Last year's Breeders' Cup. juvenile winner, Gilded Time, will run in this year's six-furlong sprint, despite not having raced since his Breeders' Cup win last year at Gulfstream

The Horse of the Year will not be found in the sprint, but the six-furlong race probably will decide who is voted champion sprinter.

Five horses — Birdonthewire, Cardmania, Meafara, Fly duced 73 Eclipse winners in So Free, and Thirty Slews various categories since its income into the race with similar credentials. Should any of Win, he or she wor

likely get the Eclipse award. No Horse of the Year is duplicate their performances likely to come out of the juvenile fillies or the mile, either. Heavenly prize is a nice twoyear-old filly, but she has raced only twice in her life.

Mile favourite Lure is devastating on the grass, but his weak point is distance. He can't win at longer than a mile and one-eighth, which cancels his "classic" status.

probably come from one of the other three races. . If multiple grade I winner Bertrando, who set a record this year for the mile-and-one-

The Horse of the Year will quarter at Del Mar, wins the \$3 Million Classic, it would be hard to overlook him for the

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The same holds true for American championship racing series winner Devil His Due, who could be voted Horse of the Year with a win in the

Sky Beauty, winner of New York's Triple Crown for fillies. also has a shot at the title, but she will have to sufficiently beat a field that includes last year's distaff champion Paseana and Beldame winner

Dispute. Sky Beauty would have to run a very impressive race to be voted Horse of the Year. The fillies she has faced so far haven't been of the calibre of Paseana or Dispute.

The last turf horse to be voted Horse of the the legendary John Henry in 1984. Kotashaan, who is favoured in the \$2 million turf, will have to be considered should he turn in a dazzling performance.

Kotashaan has won five of eight starts on the turf this year, with four of those victories coming on the Santa Anita Turf course.

Another grass horse that merits consideration isn't even running in the Breeders' Cup Arlington Million winner Star Of Cozzene.

Star Of Cozzene, who was recently sold to Japanese interests, stands to benefit greatly if Kotashaan is upset in the turf. Star Of Cozzene will be making his next start in the Japan Cup.

### Holyfield hopes to be smarter in rematch with Bowe

LAS VEGAS (AP) — He's facing an opponent who is bigger, younger, hits harder and has already beaten him once. So what does Evander Holyfield bring to Saturday night's heavyweight title rematch

against Riddick Bowe?
"The best fight of my life," Holyfield said. "All I have to do is use the skills I haven't

used for a while." The 31-year-old former champion figures to need all his skills and perhaps some more when he tries to regain two portions of the heavyweight title in the scheduled 12-round fight against

Bowe,

Holyfield, who went toe-totoe with Bowe in a valiant but ultimately misguided effort vnen ne lost the m heavyweight title last November, is banking on being a smarter fighter to win this time around.

"I fought with a lot of heart and courage last time, but it wasn't a thinking fight," Holy-field said. "It was the type of fight that excited fans, but it wasn't the smart fight that I

should have fought."
That means Holyfield will try and stay outside and box Bowe this time, relying on movement and hand speed to try and negate Bowe's obvious physical advantages.

The strategy sounds fine, but to make it work Holyfield will have to put aside a tendency that has plagued him his entire career as it did against Bowe his penchant to wade in and trade punches with an opponent once he gets hit.

'It's one of those things, that you're not going to knock me out and if you hurt me I'm still not going to run," Holy-field said. "It benefited him because I was right there in

front of him." Holyfield (29-1) will have some added bulk for the rematch, weighing in Thursday at 217 pounds (97.6 kilograms).

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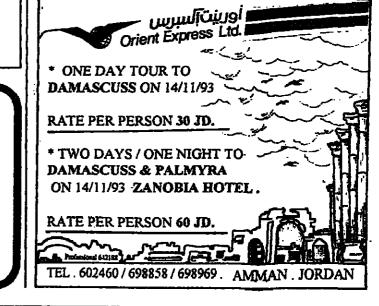
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علدًا صد الأحل

says his wife

killed soap star

Brazilian actor Guilbe

RIO DE JANEIRO (R)

Padua, who confessed in co

that he murdered his sc

opera co-star Daniela Per

his wife who did the act

killing, Brazilian news me

reported. The brutal stabbi

strong evidence against he wife, Paula. The case is

pected to go to trial next ye

De Padua now says his wi Paula, who was 19 and pa

gnant at the time, had an arg-ment with Ms. Perez, Glot

Television reported Thursday

De Padua said that he knock

Mr. Perez out, and that Paul

then grabbed a pair of scisso.

and stabbed the 22-year-of

beauty. When asked by a n

porter whether Paula had hi

led Perez by herself, De Pada

replied: "How could she H

her by herself? We are bot responsible for the crime.

**Bad moods linked** 

WASHINGTON (AP).

moods are more likely to be

smokers, and the moodies

men also tended to be heavy

drinkers, government health researchers reported. "These

findings suggest that emotional well-being may play a role in cigarette smoking and heavy drinking," said a study by Charlotte A. Schoenborn and Lake Hoen of the Neisend

John Horm of the National

Centre for Health Statistics.

Some 43,782 adults were asked

in an extensive 1991 bealth

survey if they had felt negative

moods such as depression,

boredom, anxiety or loneliness

in the previous two weeks.

Overall, the survey indicated

at least one negative mood

8 million had frequent bouts of

three or more of the bad feel

70 per cent more likely to

smoke; the depressed were 4

to 50 per cent more likely is

light up. The moodiest me

were three times as likely to b

no relationship between nega

tive moods and heavy drinking

for women. They defined

heavy drinking as three, o,

more drinks a day for men an -

two or more for women. Be

cause of the large size of the

survey, its standard margin o.

error was just one to two per-

centage points.

heavy drinkers, the centre

said. But the researchers found

million men often experiences a . 4:

during the two weeks before the being interviewed. More than

ings. Lonely adults were 60 %

to smoking and

drinking

last December, now says it

of Mr. Perez last December shocked and fascinated Bra

shocked and fascinated Brailians. On the prime-time so opera "De Cospo E Alm (Of Body And Soul), Market Perez played the sexy Yasm and De Padua her jeaks, boyfriend. Despite De Padual claim in court in January the he acted alone, both he and it wife were jailed while awaith trial. Police said they has strong evidence against he

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Senegal envoy arrives with message

AMMAN (Petra) — An envoy of Senegalese President Abdo Diouf, arrived in Amman Friday evening. The envoy will deliver a message from President Diouf to His Majesty King

### Likud 10 decide not to meet Arafat

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ten members of Israel's right-wing opposition Likud have changed their mind about meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat after threats of expulsion from the party. "I have gone back on my decision (to meet Arafat) after Wednesday's decision by the Likud disciplinary council to expel me from the party if I went," Elie Levy told Israel Radio Friday. Mr. Levy said Oct. 28 that he and nine other members of Likud's central committee were to go to Tunis to meet Mr. Arafat, "to be heard there and express our fears, but also to express our support for peace." The group of 10 were to have met Mr. Arafat by Sunday but Mr. Levy said they abandoned the plan. Likud opposes the autonomy deal signed by Israel and the PLO on Sept. 13, although Mr. Levy has said his group backed any agreement with the PLO.

### Military boycott talks on Haiti crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Talks on the political crisis in Haiti collapsed before they began Friday with the military's last-minute refusal to take part, U.N. mediator Dante Caputo said. Calling it "regrettable," Mr. Caputo said the military's decision was communicated to him in a letter from army chief General Raoul Cedras. Mr. Caputo, who read a statement to reporters an hour after the talks were to have begun, said he would consult with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and Organisation of American States Secretary-General Joao Baena Soares. The United Nations had warned Thursday it would consider tougher sanctions against Haiti if the military failed to take part in the talks. The talks were aimed at salvaging the July 3 Governors Island accord, which established a step-by-step process for restoring democratic rule in Haiti, whose President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted in a military coup Sept. 30, 1991. The process broke down when the time came for the chiefs of the army and the police to resign. Their refusal to step down blocked Mr. Aristide's scheduled return Oct. 30, and triggered a U.N. oil and arms

### 'Jihad leader wins Swiss asylum'

CAIRO (R) — Switzerland has granted political asylum to Egyptian militant leader Ayman Zawahri, whose group shot dead president Anwar Sadat in 1981, the London-based Al Hayat Arabic newspaper said Friday. Quoting Egyptian sources, Al Hayat said in a front-page report that Mr. Zawahri, a medical doctor, applied for asylum last month and was granted it last week. The report could not be independently confirmed. Mr. Zawahri is accused of relaunching the "new Jihad" in Egypt under the name of the "Vanguards of Conquest" — a revival of the group that had shot dead Mr. Sadat at a military parade in 1981. The group was smashed after Mr Sadat's murder. International news agencies and Al Hayat received a faxed invitation on Thursday for a news conference that would be held by Mr. Zawahri on Wednesday at a hotel in Geneva.

### Rajavi to stay close to Iran border

BAGHDAD (R) — The Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, an Iranian opposition group, said Friday its leader had decided to stay near its military bases on Iraq's side of the border with Iran. In a statement issued in Bağhdad and sent to Reuters, the rebel group said Massoud Rajavi would remain in Iraq overseeing preparations for a major onslaught on the "clerical regime" in Tehran. 'He (Rajavi) knows of no place more suitable than being next to the Iranian frontier to prepare for the operation to overthrow the clerical regime," the statement said. The exiled Iranian group has its headquarters in Baghdad and scores of camps along the Iraq-Iran frontier. Its army, the National Liberation Army of Iran (NLA), has tanks, armoured personnel carriers and heavy artillery. On a recent military exercise held near the border with Iraq the NLA said it used helicopter gunships piloted by women.

### 4 girls suspended for headscarves

LYON. France (R) — Four Muslim girls were suspended from school on Friday for refusing to take off their headscarves, re-igniting a row over the rights of Islamic worshippers within France's secular state schools. The schoolgirls, aged 12 to 15 were barred for a week from attending classes in the eastern town of Nantua. They spent the morning in the school's library. Headmaster Jean Damestoy said the suspension would give the girls' families, of Moroccan and Turkish origin, time to reflect and threatened to expel the girls if they refused to bow to school rules. Mr. Damestoy said he had failed to convince the girls' families to instruct them to take off their scarves. Last month the school's teachers staged a strike to express concern over the headscarves, which they said as religious symbols undermined the institution's secular status.

### Libya denies hiring Thai chemical workers

TRIPOLI (AFP) - Libya on Fridy denied it was producing chemical arms and had hired Thais to work in the industry in breach of a U.N. convention banning such weapopns. "Libya has repeatedly affirmed in its official statements and before international bodies that it has no chemical weapons programme," the official JANA news agency said. JANA's political commentators said Libya "had no links with Thai workers who were hired by a company charged with creating a man-made river" bringing water from the south of the country to the coastal regions in the north. It was referring to some 25,000 Thais working in Libya, mostly in the construction industry. Several hundred are alleged to be involved in building chemical weapons facilities.

### Chinese airplane hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (AP) - A man armed with two knives hijacked a Chinese airliner with 140 people on board Friday and asked for political asylum after forcing the plane to Taiwan, officials said. The Xiamen Airlines Boeing 737 was hijacked on a domestic flight from Guangzhou in southern China to the southern port city of Xiamen, airport officials said. It was the fifth Chinese civilian airplane hijacked to Taiwan since April. The plane and passengers were returned to China shortly after the aircraft landed but the hijacker, a 27-year-old driver for the city government in Tangshan, China, was detained for questioning and trial in Taiwan, officials said. Mr. Zhang Hai claimed he hijacked the plane so he could join his grandfather in Taiwan, they said.

### Heavy rains break Morocco drought

RABAT (R) -- Rain lashed Morocco this week causing floods and cutting roads in some areas after two successive years of drought. The Public Works Ministry said in a statement on Friday that rainfall during the week was between 48 and 110 millimetres. The rains helped replenish reservoirs used for drinking water, power generation and irrigation, it added. Lack of rain cut Morocco's cereal harvest by 58 per cent in the last two seasons, compared to the previous five-year average. Morocco had to import about four million tonnes of grains over the two years. The drought also hit power supplies. The state electricity utility office National de L'electricite (ONE) was forced to make power cuts in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city and industrial centre, due a shortfall in hydropower output. The power cuts affected industrial plants only, not domestic consumers.



VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Friday left for Laxembourg on a two-day visit in response to an invitation extended by Duke of Loxembourg Grand Duke Jean. The Crown Prince was seen off at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein,

Her Royal Highness Princes Basma, several princess and princesses, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Prince Hassan is accomby Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath (Petra

# Donors, PLO discuss financing for autonomy

The PLO took a step to-

wards creating the conditions

to receive economic aid by

appointing a 14-member eco-nomic council for development

and construction on Thursday,

including Palestinians from in-

side and outside the territories.

donor countries said they were

worried that the council would

be headed by PLO Chairman

Yasser Arafat personally with two of his closest aides in

Tunis, Farouk Kaddoumi and

Mahmoud Abbas, as vice-pres-

to keep his hands on the purse

"Once again, Arafat wants

But diplomats from some

aid donors discussed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel on Friday how to get aid flowing rapidly into the Gaza Strip and Jericho to buttress Palestinian self-rule due to begin in De-

Representatives of the European Community (EC), the United States, Japan, Canada and Saudi Arabia met the Israelis and the Palestinians at the Paris office of the World Bank for talks chaired by Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergen Holst.

At issue was how to ensure that the \$2 billion pledged in aid over the next five years -\$600 million of it next year really reaches the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, while avoiding corruption, waste and duplication.

Israel's foreign ministry

Israel

to restore

all Gazans

ATHENS (AFP) — Israel has

promised to restore electricity

to all Gaza Strip Palestinians,

following a series of brief con-

tacts held on the sidelines of a

European Community (EC)

energy conference here, offi-

cials from both delegations

Israeli Energy Minister

Moshe Shahal told Gaza

Mayor Zakaria Makki that

electricity would be restored to

the 40 per cent of Palestinians

whose supplies had seen cut off

three weeks previously for non-payment of debts, the offi-

A high-ranking Israeli diplo-

mat said that this was a tech-

party to attend an EC-

arranged meeting here on

Thursday between Israelis,

Palestinians and Jordanians to

discuss energy, water and

transport issues, an EC official

During that meeting, he met

with the EC commissioner in

charge of energy, Abel Ma-tutes, and his deputy,

Panayotis Carvounis, to dis-

cuss possible EC funding for

joint water and energy pro-

The Jordanian delegation

excused itself from the meet-

ing, citing the closeness of elec-

tions, and the Palestinian de-

legation, led by Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO)

scientific committee chairman

Adnan Samara, showed up

without a mandate to negotiate

The meeting had been pre-

pared following last month's

EC decision to allocate 500 million ECUs (\$580 million)

for projects linked to the

Israeli-Palestinian peace pro-

"Unfortunately, we learned

at the last minute that the

meeting, which was to have

produced a joint document,

could not take place," a high-

ranking E.C. official told AFP.

about these types of projects," the official said. "This is only a

PLO Chairman Yasser Ara-

Diplomats said he would be

seeking reassurances that the

community would continue to

lend political and economic

support to the Israel-PLO

Mr. Arafat is scheduled to

lunch with foreign ministers

from the 12-nation community

Monday. The diplomats said

he would be asked about the

PLO's suspension of the auton-

omy negotiations last Tuesday.

fat will visit EC headquarters

in Brussels on Monday and

postponement."

autonomy accord.

Tuesday.

We must have a dialogue

or a concrete project.

Mr. Shahal was the only

nical not a political, issue.

told AFP on Friday.

cials said.

told AFP.

jects.

strings and run everything in a highly centralised, personal told Reuters it was crucial to get aid flowing immediately into the areas to prevent a vacuum arising when Israel withdraws its military adminis-

strapped PLO, deprived of most of its Arab funds since it sympathised with Iraq in the Gulf war, wanted to use some aid money for its own running costs, but donor nations wanted to restrict use to projects in the

### way. That is not a recipe for efficiency," one diplomat said. The chief PLO delegate to

the Paris talks. Abu Ala (Ahmad Quriea), was named executive director of the council. East Jerusalem academic Sari Nusseibeh will be his de-

Diplomats said the cash-

They said the EC delegation was particularly firm, stressing European taxpayers' money would not replace Gulf oil dollars in funding the PLO's Tunis

# **PLO leader implicates** Israel in Tunis spy case

DUBAI (R) — The Palestinian leader who signed the electricity to Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) historic accord with Israel linked Israel Thursday to a man suspected of spying on the PLO's Tunis headquarters.

> member Mahmoud Abbas said suspected spy Adnan Yaseen planted two bugs in Mr. Abbas' office. Interviewed on United Arab

PLO Executive Committee

Emirates Television, Mr. Abbas first would not name Israel. But pressed by the interviewer he said: "This spying case could be in

our favour because the Israelis do not have trust in us and want to spy on us, and this is a point in our favour.' It was the first hint from a

senior PLO official in Tunis that the Palestinian was suspected of spying for Israel.

Amman-based PLO officials said Mr. Yaseen had told interrogators he was recruited by Israel in Germany and France

Mr. Abbas negotiated the PLO-Israel peace deal and later signed it for the PLO in Washington on Sept. 13.

Asked if the bugs helped Israel assess the PLO's thinking before it entered secret talks with the Jewish state, Mr. Abbas said: "The truth is that the bugs were placed only on Oct. 10 And were detected a week later by Tunisian intelli-

Mr. Yaseen apparently passed on information about the PLO in Tunis and names of people, including Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied territories, who made public and secret visits to the PLO in Tunis in the past two years, Mr. Abbas added.

A PLO statement earlier in Tunis confirming the arrest made no mention of Israel, saying only that Mr. Yaseen had been arrested on suspicion of spying for a foreign enemy.

"Adnan Yaseen was arrested for collaboration with enemy machinery," the statement said.

Hakam Balawi, coordinator of the PLO's security services and ambassador in Tunis, said in the statement that Mr. Yaseen "was an ordinary administrative attache at the PLO's office in Tunis." "He had no work related to

major issues whether political or security and has no connection at all with the Palestinian security apparatus," Mr. Balawi said

"His behaviour aroused questions... and necessitated watching his movements which has resulted in his being arrested and taken to trial for the punishment he deserves," he added.

# U.S. troops to return to Mogadishu streets

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S. troops hope a decision to send them back on patrol in the streets of Mogadishu will end confusion about their role in Somalia.

But a top U.N. relief official said the move, which is in-tended to stop militia gunmen hampering relief work, would have little impact if it were not accompanied by a policy of disarming militia gummen.

"The troops are a bit confused by the ever-evolving policy," a senior U.S. military official told Reuters on Friday. They came here to do a job, not to sit around. Hopefully, now, we'll be able to do it."

The Pentagon said on Thursday the arrival in Somalia of 30 MIA1 tanks and 42 Bradley fighting vehicles, or armoured cars, and a company of 155-mm Howitzers, enabled American units to resume clearing roadblocks to let relief agen-

cies pass through.
Some 7,600 U.S. troops in
Somalia — an additional 19,300, including 3,700 Marines are offshore aboard ships - have largely been confined to base following attacks by rival factions on U.N. patrols. More than 70 U.N. troops have been killed.

U.N. military officials said the Americans would return in force to the Mogadishu streets within days but no one appeared to have an exact date for the operation.

Relief workers, however, cautiously welcomed the U.S. decision to redeploy.
"There is a real need for the American troops to get back on the streets," said one top **Brazil** actor

U.N. relief official, who declined to be named. "Somalis are carrying guns openly on the streets again and technical vehicles — pick-ups mounted with guns — have been sighted in the city as before the December intervention by U.S. forces," he added.

"But a return to the streets must be accompanied by a policy of disarmament. Without such a policy. I don't know what will be accomplished," he

About 3,600 U.S. sailors and Marines sailed away Thursday from Mogadishu in the continuing U.S. withdrawal and Somali clan leaders met with U.N. officials to discuss ways to improve security in the capital. About 7,500 U.S. troops remained, with an additional 8,650 offshore.

The famine in Somalia is over, the American Red Cross declared Thursday, but it said a long recovery lies ahead for a country that still has no national government.

"In contrast to scenes of violence in Mogadishu, elsewhere in Somalia people are focused on rebuilding their lives," the relief agency said in a brief summary of the International Red Cross's year-long effort in the country.

It said the current harvest is a good one and "Somalia is emerging from two years of vicious and debilitating civil

### Police raid Kurd centres; **Bonn studies PKK ban**

BONN (AFP) - Police raided Kurdish centres across Germany Friday after a wave of firebomb attacks on Turkish interests, while the govern-ment of Chancellor Helmut Kohl said it was seriously considering banning the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) held re-sponsible for the onslaught.

An interior ministry spokesman said 46 people had been arrested following the attacks, and the Mainz prosecutor's office said eight people had been charged with breaching the peace in connection with

One person died and eight most serious attack Thursday on a Turkish-frequented restaurant in Wiesbaden.

The spokesman said nine other people, including a policeman, were also hurt in the closely-coordinated series of assaults mounted across Germany and Western

Several of those arrested were caught in the act of throwing Molotov cocktails, and one was arrested in hospital with burns, officials said.

The federal prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, which is in charge of terrorism cases, said it had issued 14 search warrants, mostly in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, where there were 21 attacks in 14 towns.

But the interior ministry and individual states had also launched actions, with searches reported in Bonn, Munich, Nuremberg, Ingoldstadt and

Police smashed down the

door of the Kurd-Ha news agency in Dusseldorf and took away journalists' computers, printers, addresses and telephone numbers, as well as documents, a staff member The agency has been a source of information on the

activities of the militant Kurdish independence move-

The agency's director, Fatma Sincer, was detained for interrogation but later re-

The Kurd-Ha source said 100 to 150 homes and offices had been raided as part of the security drive in Hamburg, Bielefeld, Bremen, Frankfurt and Cologne. There are numerous Kurdish cultural centres in Germany, which has a Turkish population of 1.8 million, about one third of them Kurds.

There had also been raids in Sweden and Switzerland, the source said.

Government spokesman Dieter Vogel said Mr. Kohl considered those responsible for the Molotov cocktail attacks on Turkish diplomatic missions, banks, airline offices, travel agencies, restaurants and other establishments as 'criminals.'

Mr. Vogel said the govern-ment was "seriously considering" banning the PKK. "Abuse of hospitality" by Kurds in Germany could not be tolerated, he said.

Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Thursday that it was now time to ban the PKK, while Interior Minister Manfred Kanther said he did not rule out such a move.

### Australian, Indian win Commonwealth **Writers Prizes**

SINGAPORE (AP) — Nove ists from Australia and ladi were the overall winners in thi 😿 year's Commonwealth Writer Prize. Arthur Miller, 56, wh won the best book award, re ceived £10,000 (\$14,706) for The Ancestor Game. Mis Githa Hariharan, 38, whos book The Thousand Faces 0 Night examined traditional re ationships in male-dominate Hindu society, was awarde 53,000 (\$4,412) for best fin book. Their novels werchosen from eight shortliste for the two prizes. The ning member panel of judges will m sador-At-Large Tommy Kob :-

### Youth gets jail term for breaking into data bases

NEW YORK (R) - A 21 year-old man was sentenced t one year in prison for his rol in a group that broke into som. of the most sensitive compe ters used by telephone con panies and credit reporting str. vices. Mark Abene 0 Elmhurst, New York, who @led himself Phiber Optik, bi pleaded guilty in July to on. count of conspiracy and one ( tampering with Southwesters Bell's computer. He was the in the huge 1991 compan break-in scheme to admit con mitting the crimes.

### Saudi Shiite dissidents make deal with government DHAHRAN (AP) — Sandi Mr. Abu Hamad said the

Arabia's Shiite Muslim dissidents, for years seen as a possible vanguard for Iranian-inspired sabotage, are coming back into the fold.

The kingdom has pardoned its exiled Shiite opponents and they, in turn, have closed down their newsletters and ceased public criticism of the government, officials in the region

And in New York, a researcher for the human rights group Middle East Watch said Wednesday that the Saudi government released more than 30 Shiite detainees on July 25 almost the total number of imprisoned Shiite dissidents.

In a previously unreported development, four top exiles - including the leader of the main Shiite opposition group returned to the kingdom and met with King Fahd in early October, said the researcher, Aziz Abu Hamad.

The Shiite community in Saudi Arabia, which is concentrated in the oil-rich Eastern Province, has been estimated to number anywhere from 300,000 to 700,000. Saudi Arabia has a population of 17 million — 12 million citizens and five million foreign workers.

Animosity between Shiites

and the majority Sunni Mus-

lims dates back centuries and was spurred in Saudi Arabia by persecution of the Shiites by the puritanical Wahhabite Sunni sect in the 18th century.

The Sunni-dominated government's suspicion of Shiites was heightened by the 1979 Iranian revolution that brought a Shiite fundamentalist government to power in Tehran.

The government's recent moves at reconciliation apparently are partially aimed at improving its image in the West, where this theocratic kingdom is often portrayed as being harsh on opponents. A reconciliation with Shiite

dissidents also is in line with the rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh over the past three years. Officials speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed that Interior Ministry representatives have met in London

with members of the loose-knit

Shiite reform movement. The officials said the group stopped publishing its Arabiclanguage newsietter, called Arabian Peninsula, and halted its attacks on the Riyadh government. It also agreed to halt another newsletter, the En-

glish-language Arabian Moni-tor, published in Washington. Those two were the only Saudi Shiite newsletters pubIn return, the government

freed Shiites held in Saudi prisons and took a number of dissidents off the travel blacklists, allowing exiles to return. It also removed travel bans that prevented some dissidents leaving the country. Mr. Abu Hamad said the 30

released Shiites included several who were serving long prison terms and four who had been condemned to death in connection with bomb attacks on oil facilities in 1988. Mr. Abu Hamad, who said

he obtained his information from government sources in Saudi Ārabia as well as sources within the Shiite dissident movement, said the government also promised the Shiites it would consider a number of longstanding demands.

These include ending discri-

mination on hiring Shiites in sensitive jobs in government and in the oil industry and allowing greater freedom for Shiite religious practices. Mr. Abu Hamad said the

new reconciliation could also

be due to the emergence of a Sunni opposition. "The government probably feels it wants to face the Sunni fundamentalists without having to worry about the other

dissident groups," he said.

four who met with King Fahd last month include Tawfik Al Sheik, secretary-general of the reform movement, and three other movement officials: Isa Ahmad, Jafer Al Shayeb and Sadeq Mohammad. The four have returned from

their exile in London and The deal apparently was sea-

led with the help of the Sandi ambassador in London, Ghazi Al Gasaibi — who has been at pains to polish the image of his kingdom. Saudi Arabia's rulers recent-

ly have expressed irritation that their government is por-trayed in the West as unbending and medieval. They complain that this is the result of an erroneous in-

tenets guide almost every government action in the kingdom. Crown Prince Abdullah complained to university pro-fessors of the "distortion of the image of Islam in the view of

the West and the East, where

many people now look upon a

terpretation of Islam, whose

Muslim as a terrorist." "Freedom is guaranteed for all Saudis without discrimination," he said, adding that we we work tirelessly to make our society an exemplary one in all aspects of life."



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